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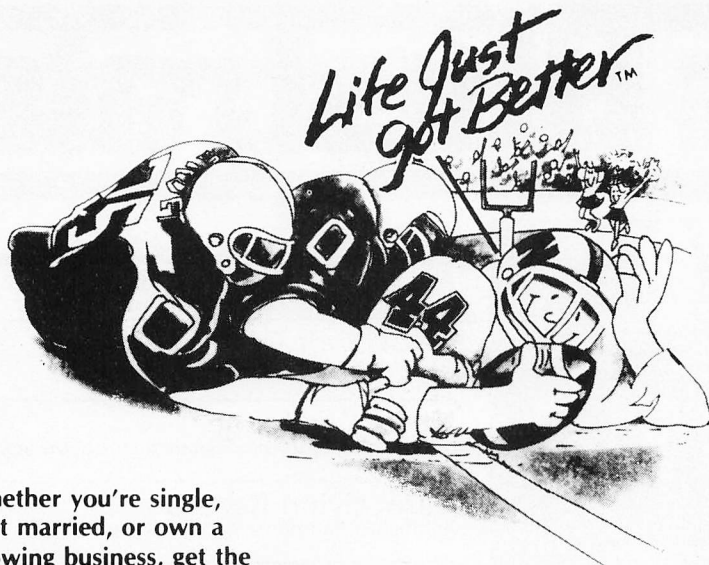
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## Letters

### HAPPY HOOPS

Dear Huskers:

I recently read the article about Henry T. Buchanan, and I liked it very much. Although Henry is 27, his moves and shots still make him look like he's 21. I think this year Buchanan and the Huskers will have a great season.

Well, good luck on the season to Danny Nee and the Huskers. Could I please have the addresses of Husker football and basketball players?

Scott Triesen  
Henderson, Neb.

Scott: To contact football or basketball players for NU, simply put the athlete's name on your letter and address it to (for football) Football Office, South Stadium Bldg, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb. 68588. To write a basketball player, just put his or her name on the envelope and mail it to Basketball Office, Devaney Sports Complex, Lincoln, Neb. 68588.

### BIG, BIG EIGHT

Dear Huskers:

I think this business of saying the Big Two and Little Six is crazy. Do you know that besides the Huskers and Sooners there are the Cowboys and Buffaloes, who are also up there. Maybe the Big Eight has the best two teams in the nation and the worst two teams in the nation (we won't say who), but we happen to also have a couple of runner-ups, so let's stop this Big Two and Little Six, no offense Kansas.

Mike Henige  
Glendale, Ariz.

### OH, YOU HUSKERS

Dear Huskers:

Your articles, photographs and layout are great. Almost as good as Nebraska's football.

Two years ago, I had the privilege of meeting Coach Tom Osborne and Don Bryant (sports information director) along with a few of the players. I was given a tour of the football facilities, and I wish all Nebraskans could be so lucky. To say they are fine people is not enough. I came to understand better why the university and Nebraska



team have such great character and standards.

Friends who have played Nebraska or went to games back there all said one thing that made me even prouder to be a Nebraskan. They said the treatment they received from the Huskers fans was outstanding. Thanks, Huskers! You do yourselves proud.

By the way, even out here in California, I'm surrounded by Okies. However, that makes the odds even.

Thanks to Coach Osborne and the team for such a great season and for being as great as you can be.

Robert Huling  
Bellflower, Calif.

Dear Huskers:

First of all, I would like to congratulate all the Huskers on their success.

I read all the time about how Coach Osborne should retire and how Nebraska should get a new coach. This criticism is, first of all, totally unfounded, and, secondly, very irritating to "loyal fans." Not many of these people that complain are actually coaches themselves, and even if they are — are you jealous or what? These people that sit in their easy chairs and complain don't seem to be flocking forward to try and do a better job, do they? Just remember, talk is cheap. Very cheap.

I would like to commend a couple of aspects of the team that I find fascinating. I'm very pleased to see the vast improvement in an already great defense. These guys are actually fun to watch, and they should be very proud of themselves and their coaches.

Secondly, I would like to personally shake the hand of all the offensive linemen, who have taken great strides to improve themselves as a team and individuals. I am truly impressed with you guys.

Once again, congratulations and continued success.

Terry Pilar  
Merville, Iowa

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## PROGRAM GUIDE

Dear Huskers:

Can you tell me where I can get the game program for the Oklahoma-Nebraska game this year? I would really appreciate it.

Jenny Singh  
Jersey City, NJ

Jenny: Simply send your request to:

Sports Information Office, 106 South Stadium Bldg., University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb. 68588. They will be able to tell you if any copies are available and at what cost.

## RUSHING AHEAD

Dear Huskers:

I live in Norfolk, Va., and I have

been a Cornhusker fan for as long as I can remember. My grandfather, Rex Olsen, got me started on Nebraska football back in 1970, and I have been a very faithful follower since. It was only this past fall that I had even heard of your magazine. I am a subscriber now, and I couldn't be happier. I am in the Navy, and when I am at sea it is very difficult to get information on the games. Your magazine gives me all the information and highlights I need.

There have been quite a few outstanding rushers in Cornhusker history. Can you print the top 15 and how many yards they rushed for?

Michael Bickel  
Norfolk, Vir.

Michael: With Keith Jones' effort against Colorado, he joined the 1,000-yard rushing club at Nebraska. The following is a rundown of NU's top single-season rushing performances: Mike Rozier (2,148 yards in 1983), Rozier (1,689 in 1982), Bobby Reynolds (1,342 in 1950), I.M. Hipp (1,301 in 1977), Doug DuBose (1,161 in 1985), Jarvis Redwine (1,119 in 1980), Roger Craig (1,060 in 1981), Redwine (1,042 in 1979), DuBose (1,040 in 1984), Jeff Kinney (1,037 in 1971) and Tony Davis (1,008) in 1973.

With a total of 1,232 rushing yards this year, Jones ranks No. 5 in the 1,000-yard club.

*We want to hear your comments and answer your questions. Please address them to "Letters," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501. ■*

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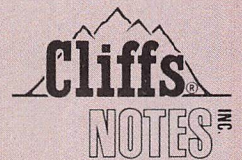
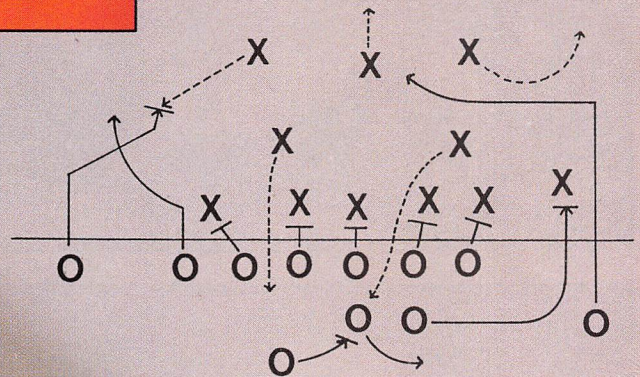


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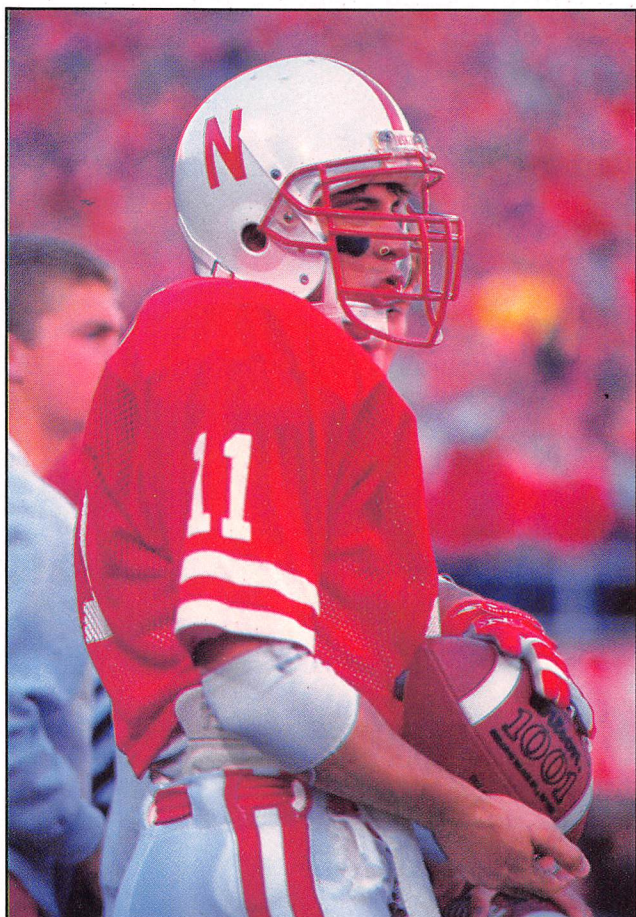


# THE Final Gun

By Mike Babcock



*Doug Welniak (37)*



*Jeff Tomjack*

It seems like only yesterday that Hendley Hawkins was checking out football equipment and settling into the freshman locker room at the north end of Nebraska's Memorial Stadium.

Hawkins was one of four freshman quarterbacks on scholarship in 1983.

But "that didn't really scare me," he said. "Some guys want to be the only quarterback or the only running back coming in. I always thought the competition made me better. It didn't bother me at all. I just wanted to know that I was going to get a fair shake." Hawkins, an All-City quarterback at Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles, was listed as a quarterback-defensive back on Nebraska's recruiting list. His capsule in the Cornhusker media guide said: "Hawkins will concentrate on defensive back at Nebraska." But he never spent a day on defense.

Hawkins' freshman year, he joined McCathorn Clayton, Jeff Taylor, Clete Blakeman and Harlan Opie, the only walkon in the group, at QB for the junior varsity.

With Blakeman forced to redshirt with an injury, Hawkins, Clayton and Taylor alternated as starters for the JVs, who won their five games by a combined score of 197-37.

"We didn't have a close game," said Hawkins, who completed 10 of 29 passes for 88 yards and one touchdown and rushed for 29 yards.

The closest game was a 27-10 win over Ellsworth Junior College. The most lopsided was by 71-7 over the William Jewell College junior varsity.

Hawkins' freshman class, the first for then-new recruiting coordinator Steve Pederson, included 22 scholarship players and a host of walkons.

"It was strange," Hawkins said. "We had so many guys." Of the 22 scholarship freshmen, all but seven have either completed their eligibility at Nebraska or will by the end of this season. And one of those seven, Von Sheppard, would've finished up if he hadn't suffered an apparent career-ending knee injury in the 1987 South Carolina game.



*Some played four  
years, others five.  
But for Nebraska's  
seniors, the  
Fiesta Bowl will  
be their last  
game in scarlet  
and cream.*

Sheppard, a prep All-American from St. Paul, Minn., was as good as any player in his class, according to Coach Tom Osborne. "So many times when a player isn't playing any more, people forget about him. It's almost like he was never there," Osborne said.

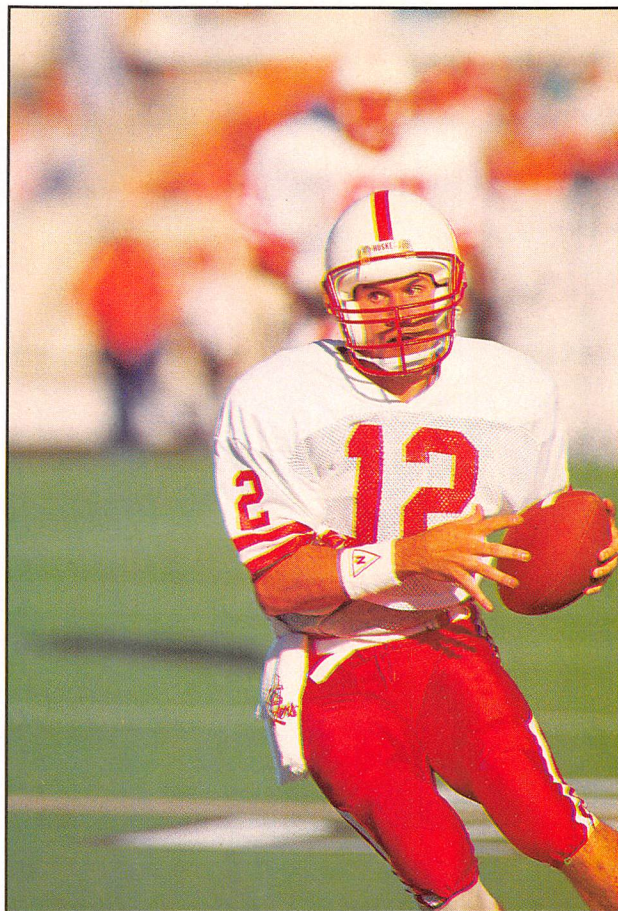
"And yet, Von, when he was right, was a great player, our best wing back. Dana Brinson has great ability, but when it came to doing the whole thing — running, receiving, blocking and knowing what to do — Von was the best. He was as good an athlete as you could have." Given the 1983 freshman class, that's saying a lot. Three of its scholarship members went through the program without redshirting. Noseguard Danny Noonan plus linebackers Marc Munford and Kevin Parsons completed their eligibility last season.

Noonan, who began as a defensive tackle, surprised Hawkins with his success. He was an All-American and a first-round draft choice of the Dallas Cowboys.

When Noonan reported for freshman training camp, he weighed barely 210 pounds. Noonan, defensive tackle Lee Jones and noseguard Stephen Thomas earned the nickname "The Express." "At that time, I didn't think Danny and 'Killer' (Jones) would play that much because they were so small," Hawkins said. "The first time I saw them, I thought, 'These guys are going to be defensive linemen?'" Thomas subsequently transferred to Iowa, where he played this season.

The other 1983 scholarship recruits who aren't finishing up this fall were Taylor; Shannon Davidson, a defensive end from Kansas City, Mo.; Bill Macias, an offensive tackle from Huntington Beach, Calif.; Scott Hill a defensive back from Omaha; Gene Chealey, a defensive back from Orlando, Fla.; and Novell Jackson, a running back from Havre de Grace, Md.

Ironically, Jackson was the can't-miss prospect, the most publicized scholar-



*Clete Blakeman*

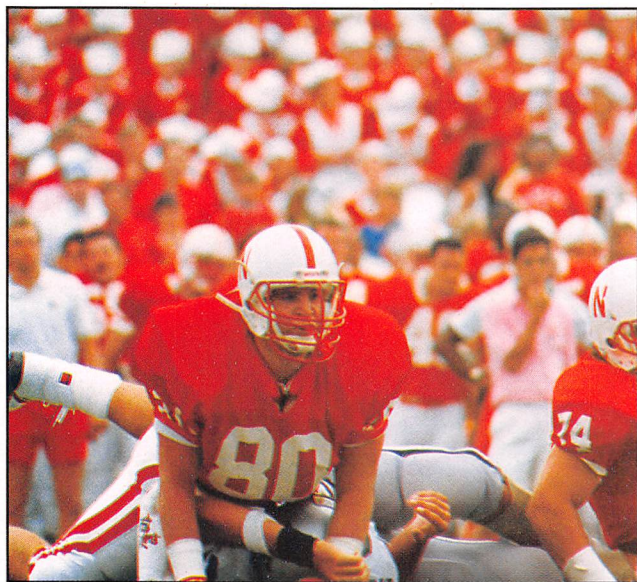


*Nebraska's senior  
receiving corps led by  
Rod Smith (88) kicked  
the brains out of  
everybody — except  
Oklahoma and, on this  
one play, Kansas.*





*Seniors Neil Smith (99) and Tim Rother (78) were the Big Eight's two best defensive tackles.*



*Two-deep with seniors at several positions, the Black Shirts flattened opponents (a la end Jeff Jamrog) with regularity.*

ship recruit in the class. The 6-foot-1, 190-pound I-back was a two-time prep All-American who rushed for more than 3,000 yards and scored 36 touchdowns during his high school career.

Jackson also played defensive end.

"If we could've picked two players in the country for I-backs, they would've been D.J. Dozier, number one, and Novell, number two," said Pederson, now an investment counselor in Lincoln.

Dozier, who went on to become an All-American at Penn State, declined

Nebraska's offer of a recruiting visit.

"Novell was in that class," said Pederson. "We were so excited to get him. Probably the most exciting day in that whole year was when Novell told us he was coming to Nebraska." Jackson carried 40 times for 253 yards and four touchdowns his freshman year on the junior varsity. But because of academic problems, he never went any further in the program.

"Novell — wow! I can't describe the way he could play. He was something to watch," said Hawkins.

"Novell was sensational," said Rod Smith, who began and will finish his Cornhusker career as a split end.

Jackson "was a sure thing if ever there was one," Pederson said. "Who's going to make it really big? There was the guy. That only goes to show you how recruiting works. That's why Tom (Osborne) always says you can never tell about a guy until he puts on the pads." If first impressions meant anything, Tim Rother probably wouldn't have been around to become a starter and All-Big Eight performer at defensive tackle this year.

Rother, a walkon from Bellevue East High School, was as much of a blessing as Jackson was a disappointment. Rother was recruited simply on potential.

"Rother is who I'm happy for the most in our class," said Smith, who will sit out this year's Fiesta Bowl because of a broken bone in his leg. "He's always been kind of in the backseat of things. We had 'The Express,' and they got all the attention. Tim was on the offense at the time, banging away at tackle. Nobody knew much about him." Although the Nebraska coaches didn't know for sure, they expected Rother to grow and fill out in college.

As recruiting coordinator, "you'd like to find a hundred guys just like Rother," said Pederson.

The 1983 class of scholarship freshmen was rated Nebraska's best-ever since the NCCA set its 30-95 limits. That best-ever peg motivated players, according to Smith.

"There's something inside you that you draw from when somebody tells you you're the best ever," he said.

Nebraska's 1984 recruiting class was less publicized than the one in 1983, but time has shown it to be no less successful. Of the 17 scholarship recruits in it, all but two — split end Jason Gamble and lineman Mark Mendel — are still playing. I-back Keith Jones, defensive tackle Neil Smith and strong safety Brian Washington all will complete their eligibility in the Fiesta Bowl.

Washington, a *Parade* high school All-American from Highland Springs, Va., and Rod Smith like to argue the merits of their respective classes.

"Really, we're the more dominant class," Washington said with a smile.

Washington not only skipped a red-shirt season, he played enough as a freshman to earn a varsity letter, the



first of four he'll take with him.

He never really thought about sitting out a season as a redshirt. "It didn't cross my mind," Washington said. "I didn't even know about redshirting until I got here. I didn't know about the freshman program." It didn't matter. He practiced with the freshmen for three days, until the varsity reported to camp. Then he moved his equipment to the varsity locker room in the South Stadium.

Hawkins might have avoided a red-shirt season if he had been willing to try defensive back. The coaches asked him, but he declined. "I wanted to stay on the offensive side," he said.

Specifically, Hawkins wanted to remain at quarterback. When Osborne asked if he'd be interested in switching positions at the end of spring drills his freshman year, he declined.

Hawkins said he wanted to try quarterback one more season. But after one day of practice in sweats the next fall, he reconsidered.

His height (5-9) limited Hawkins as a quarterback, according to Osborne. In addition, his background made him a logical candidate to change positions.

"I had a chance to play both offense and defense in high school, and that helped me some. I think the other guys were mainly quarterbacks in high school," Hawkins said.

Actually, Clayton had similar versatility because of his considerable athletic skill. "We thought they were all guys who could play somewhere else, except Jeff Taylor," said Pederson.

Taylor eventually decided to trade his football pads for a baseball bat. Blakeman remained at quarterback, as did Clayton until this season, when he moved to the secondary.

Clayton was a starting quarterback his sophomore year, completing 28 of 78 passes for 602 yards and three TDs and rushing for 290 yards and five touchdowns for a 9-3 team.

His best performance came in a 34-24 win over Oklahoma State, passing for 161 yards and one touchdown and running for two more scores. "In my opinion, the McCathorn who played in that game was the real McCathorn," said Pederson.

"A lot of things happened that weren't in Mac's favor. But I'll always believe he's a tremendous athlete, and if some of those things happened differently, he would have been a tremendous quarterback." Clayton and Hawkins are two of 30 seniors whose

college careers will end with a final game in Tempe. They made their official recruiting visit to Nebraska the same weekend. Doug DuBose was Clayton's host, and Paul Miles escorted Hawkins.

Now they're finishing together.

"It seems like yesterday that I was checking in as a freshman," said Hawkins, who admits: "It's kind of funny, looking back, I would have never thought I would be playing receiver." Many such things have occurred during the last four or five seasons.

Ursula Walsh, who had a significant influence on almost every Nebraska football recruit when she was the NU academic counselor, has departed for the NCAA, and Pederson has turned to the business world.

But he still speaks of his first recruiting class with fondness.

"They were good students and good people, the backbone of some great teams," Pederson said. "Tom Banderas, Rod Smith, McCathorn Clayton...they were up-front people, not guys who played games with you. It was really a fun year. Maybe the most fun ever. We went undefeated in recruiting; we got one right after the other. They're always going to be a special group to me." Nebraska's 1983 freshman class was like an extension of the recruiting staff.

"It was like I had maybe 20 assistant recruiting coordinators. They'd stop in on Mondays and tell me what they thought about recruits and how the (recruiting) weekends had gone," said Pederson.

"They dug in their heels and helped. That bunch kind of took hold of recruiting. They felt as strongly about getting great players at Nebraska as I did. They were tremendous hosts." Washington's freshman class provides evidence of that. Besides the three seniors, it includes wing back Dana Brinson, cornerback Lorenzo Hicks, linebacker Randall Jobman, offensive guard Andy Keeler, I-back Tyreese Knox, tight end Todd Millikan and noseguard Lawrence Pete, all of whom have another year of eligibility.

"Everybody thought we didn't do very well with that class. But look at all the guys who are playing," said Pederson. "If you get 75-80 percent who become players, you're successful."

Washington takes pride in both his classes — the one among which he arrived, and the one among which he'll depart. The time has "definitely flown by," he said. ■

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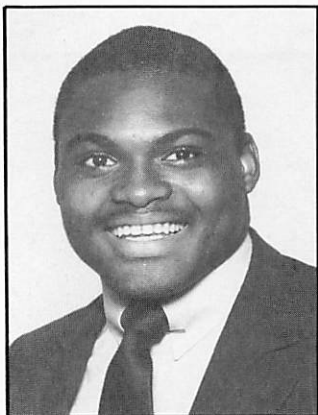
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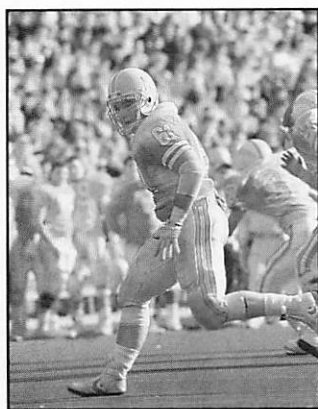
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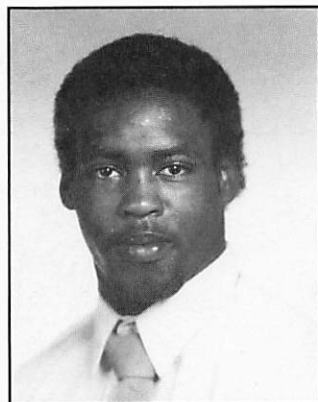




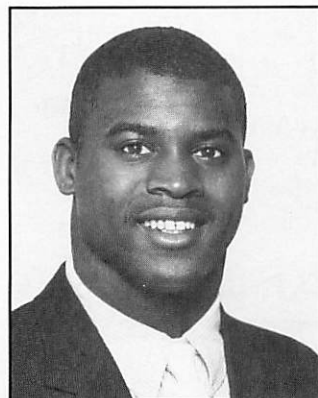
Neil Smith



John McCormick



Broderick Thomas



Steve Taylor

# Smith, McCormick Thomas, Taylor Named to All-American Teams

Nebraska's senior offensive guard, John McCormick, pulled down the lion's share of post-season honors on the most decorated Husker team since 1971.

By Mark Owens

Becoming Nebraska's seventh All-American offensive lineman in the 1980s, senior right guard John McCormick led the most prolific parade of post-season all-stars at NU since 1971, NU's last national championship season.

McCormick, a fifth-year senior out of Omaha Gross High School was honored by the Associated Press, Kodak (American Football Coaches Association) and the Walter Camp Foundation. Ironically, McCormick pulled off this feat by barely making All-Big Eight for the first time in his three-year career as a starter; AP named him to their 1987 squad but United Press International did not.

Junior defensive end Broderick Thomas lived up to his preseason billing (an All-American selection by *Playboy* back in August) by landing a spot on the Walter Camp A-A squad. The Houston Madison product was also named to the AP and UPI second teams.

Senior defensive tackle Neil Smith was tapped for All-American honors by *The Sporting News*.

Junior Steve Taylor was picked by the *Football News* for its first-team All-American quarterback, as the Huskers landed four players on All-American teams.

This year, Oklahoma led the nation with five All-Americans — all seniors — as the No. 1-rated Sooners were paced by offensive guard Mark Hutson and tight end Keith Jackson, both of whom made every all-star team of any consequence. They were joined with less frequency by safety Rickey Dixon, linebacker Dante Jones and defensive end Darrell Reed. The conference

record for All-American honorees is eight, set by the 1974 Sooner team that went 10-0-1. Nebraska's all-time high is six, set by the historic 1971 squad.

Nebraska had several other nationally recognized players this season. Making honorable mention in the AP release were senior tight end Tom Banderas, senior I-back Keith Jones, Lightner, senior defensive tackle Tim Rother, junior cornerback Charles Fryar, junior linebacker LeRoy Etienne and sophomore center Jake Young. Jones, Taylor, Smith and Rother also made honorable mention on UPI's All-American release.

The Big Red's last big haul in post-season awards came in 1984 when 11 Huskers were given All-Big Eight status, and the 1987 squad produced eight: Taylor, Thomas, McCormick, Lightner, Jones, Smith, Rother and senior linebacker Steve Forch.

Giving the Sooners a run for their money in national awards were Auburn and Nebraska (with four, first-team All-Americans each).

Florida State, NU's foe in the Fiesta Bowl, landed two All-Americans — cornerback Deion Sanders and linebacker Paul McGowan.

All told, Nebraska had 16 players receive at least honorable-mention all-conference recognition, including one player, senior defensive tackle Lee Jones, who missed most of the year with an ankle injury. The flip side of that coin is that a couple of Huskers seemed to be unfairly left off the all-star lists. Junior tight end Todd Milikan and senior strong safety Brian Washington had made second-team All-Big Eight earlier in their careers, but neither even got honorable men-



# 1987 All-American Checklist

The following is a list of first-team All-Americans, Nebraska players receiving secondary national honors and Florida State honorees. 1 = First team; 2 = Second team; 3 = Third team; HM = Honorable Mention.

	AP	UPI	Kodak	Walter Camp	Football News	Football Writers	Sporting News
<b>Quarterbacks</b>							
Don McPherson, Syracuse	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
STEVE TAYLOR, Nebraska	3	HM			1		
<b>Running Backs</b>							
Lorenzo White, Michigan State	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
Gaston Green, UCLA	HM	2	1	1	1		2
Craig Heyward, Pitt	1	1			3	1	1
Bobby Humphrey, Alabama	3			1	2		1
Thurman Thomas, Oklahoma State	1	2			2		
KEITH JONES, Nebraska	HM	HM					
Sammie Smith, FSU	HM	HM					
<b>Tight Ends</b>							
Keith Jackson, Oklahoma	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Pat Carter, FSU	2	2					1
TOM BANDERAS, Nebraska	HM						
<b>Receivers</b>							
Tim Brown, Notre Dame	1	1	1	1	1		1
Wendell Davis, LSU	2	1	1		1	1	1
Sterling Sharpe, S. Carolina	3	2				1	1
Marc Zeno, Tulane	1	2			2		
Ernie Jones, Indiana	1				3		2
Herb Gainer, FSU	HM						
<b>Offensive Line</b>							
Mark Hutson, Oklahoma	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Nacho Albergamo, LSU	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
John Elliot, Michigan	HM	1	1	1	3	1	
Randall McDaniel, ASU	2	1	1		2	1	2
JOHN MCCORMICK, Nebraska	1	2	1		1		
Dave Cadigan, USC	1	1		1	2	1	1
Stacy Searels, Auburn	1				1		
Chuck Lanza, Notre Dame	2	2			1		
Tom Mandarich, Michigan State	2				1		2
Paul Gruber, Wisconsin		2					1
Harry Galbreath, Tennessee	3	2			2		1
Steve Wisniewski, Penn State	HM	HM					1
KEVIN LIGHTNER, Nebraska	HM						
JAKE YOUNG, Nebraska	HM						
Pat Tomerblin, FSU	3	HM					
Jason Kuipers, FSU	HM						
<b>Kickers</b>							
David Tredwell, Clemson	1	1	1	1	1		1
Marty Zendejas, Nevada-Reno						1	
Derek Schmidt, FSU	3	2					
<b>Defensive Line</b>							
Chad Hennings, Air Force	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dan Stubbs, Miami (Fla.)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tracy Rocker, Auburn	3	1		1	1	1	
Ted Gregory, Syracuse	HM	1			1	1	1
Darrell Reed, Oklahoma	1	2			1		2
BRODERICK THOMAS, Nebraska	2	2		1			2
NEIL SMITH, Nebraska	2	HM			2		1
Tony Cherico, Arkansas	HM	2	1		3		
Mark Messner, Michigan	2	HM			2		1
TIM ROTHER, Nebraska	HM	HM					
Odell Haggins, FSU	HM						
Eric Hayes, FSU	HM						
<b>Linebackers</b>							
Chris Spielman, Ohio State	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ken Norton, UCLA	3	1		1	1		1
Aundray Bruce, Auburn	HM	1	1	1	2		1
Paul McGowan, FSU	1	HM			1		2
John Roper, Texas A&M	1	2				1	
Dante Jones, Oklahoma	1	2	1				
Zeke Gadson, Pitt	HM				2	1	2
Kurt Crain, Auburn	1				2		
Clifford Charlton, Florida	HM						1
LEROY ETIENNE, Nebraska	HM						
Terry Warren, FSU	HM						
<b>Defensive Backs</b>							
Deion Sanders, FSU	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bennie Blades, Miami (Fla.)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chuck Cecil, Arizona	2	1	1	1	1		2
Rickey Dixon, Oklahoma	1	1			2	1	2
Louis Oliver, Florida	3	2				1	
Jarvis Williams, Florida	HM			1			
Mickey Pruitt, Colorado	2				2		1
CHARLES FRYAR, Nebraska	HM						
<b>Punters</b>							
Tom Tupa, Ohio State	1		1	1	2	1	
Greg Montgomery, Michigan State		2			1		
Scott Tabor, California	3				3		1



tion this year. Millikan actually had more receptions (13 to 8) than Banderas — Nebraska's starter — while Washington seemed to get lost in a crowd of ultra-talented safeties within the conference this year even though he was second among Husker defensive backs in total tackles.

After 98 seasons of collegiate football, Nebraska has now produced 65 All-Americans who have received that honor collectively on 74 occasions. Of those 65 all-stars, 31 were so honored while playing for Coach Tom Osborne and another 18 received All-American status while playing for Bob Devaney.

## ALL-BIG EIGHT ASSOCIATED PRESS

### First Team Offense:

**Quarterback** — STEVE TAYLOR, NU

**Running backs** — KEITH JONES, NU; Thurman Thomas, OSU; Joe Henderson, ISU.

**Tight end** — Keith Jackson, OU.

**Receiver** — Hart Lee Dykes, OSU.

**Center** — Bob Latham, OU.

**Linemen** — JOHN McCORMICK,

NU; Mark Hutson, OU; Greg Johnson, OU; Anthony Phillips, OU.

**Kicker** — Jeff Shudak, ISU.

### First Team Defense:

**Linemen** — NEIL SMITH, NU; TIM ROTHER, NU; Kyle Rappold, CU.

**Ends** — BRODERICK THOMAS, NU; Darrell Reed, OU.

**Linebackers** — Dante Jones, OU; Eric McCarty, CU.

**Backs** — Erik McMillan, MU; Rickey Dixon, OU; David Vickers, OU; Mickey Pruitt, CU.

**Punter** — Barry Helton, CU.

### NU ONLY

### Second Team Offense:

Tom Banderas, Keven Lightner, Jake Young.

### Defense:

LeRoy Etienne, Charles Fryar.

### Honorable Mention Offense:

Rod Smith, Bob Sledge.

### Defense:

Lee Jones: Steve Forch, Mark Blazek.

## UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

### First Team Offense:

**Quarterback** — STEVE TAYLOR, NU.

**Running backs** — KEITH JONES, NU; Thurman Thomas, OSU.

**Tight end** — Keith Jackson, OU.

**Receivers** — Hart Lee Dykes, OSU; Dennis Ross, ISU.

**Center** — Bob Latham, OU.

**Linemen** — KEVEN LIGHTNER, NU; Greg Johnson, OU; Mark Hutson, OU; Anthony Phillips, OU.

**Kicker** — Jeff Shudak, ISU. **First Team Defense:**

**Linemen** — NEIL SMITH, NU; BRODERICK THOMAS, NU; Darrell Reed, OU; Kyle Rappold, CU.

**Linebackers** — STEVE FORCH, NU; Dante Jones, OU; Eric McCarty, CU.

**Backs** — Erik McMillan, MU; David Vickers, OU; Rickey Dixon, OU; Mickey Pruitt, CU.

**Punter** — Barry Helton, CU

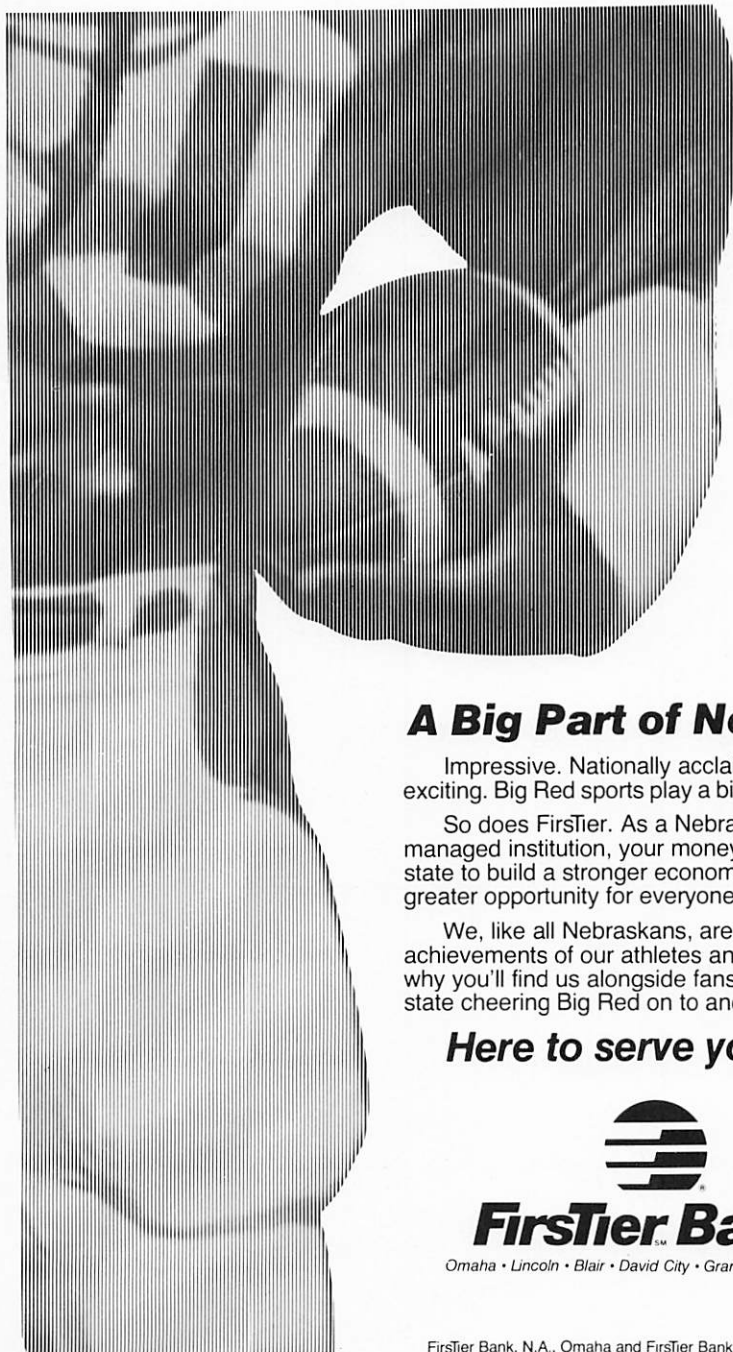
### NU ONLY

### Second Team Offense:

Tom Banderas, John McCormick, Bob Sledge, Rod Smith, Jake Young.

### Second Team Defense:

LeRoy Etienne, Charles Fryar, Tim Rother. ■



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# Huskers Reviewed

## HUSKERS RUN OVER CU AFTER BRIEF BUFF SCARE

*Chris Drennan (16) celebrates his career-best 50-yard field goal, and back-up quarterback Clete Blakeman adds body English as Nebraska methodically adds points.*

By Mark Owens

BOULDER, COLO. — A good hour before Nebraska and Colorado waged war in the Heartbreak Bowl, officials at the University of Coors sent a Grease Brigade to oil down the Folsom Field goal posts. Wink-wink, hint-hint. The Buff goal posts crashed in 1986 when CU upstaged Nebraska, 20-10, and this year's lube job was a subtle, if not presumptuous, hint that Bison fans expected yet another win over stop-me-before-I-talk-again Nebraska.

Certainly, the funeral-attired Buffs were disappointed when the posts didn't fall, but they were joined by at least one dude in Red and White. Nebraska won, 24-7, and Broderick Thomas wished the gigantic dip sticks at each end of the field still had fallen.

"It would have been neat," he deadpanned later. "I would have liked to have seen a little celebration. We didn't get to tear ours down after Oklahoma, and I think it would have been great if our fans could have torn down theirs." Truth is, people generally don't

destroy things when they celebrate what Nebraska did on the floor of beer-stenched Folsom Field. The Huskers showed character. Going into Colorado's self-proclaimed "bowl game," Nebraska was the focal point of two of college football's pre-eminent mysteries — first, Oklahoma's looking so pitiful against Missouri and looking so great against NU, and, second, the emotional response of the Orange Bowl-or-Bust Huskers after that 17-7 loss.

Nebraska responded as if the Oklahoma game never happened. Except for two early turnovers and some gourmet wishbone by Colorado in the third quarter, the Huskers combined a maniacal effort with workman-like discipline to beat the Buffs with relative ease.

Senior I-back Keith Jones led the charge with a career-best, 248-yard rushing effort, and revenge was sweet for him and some buddies. A year ago against Colorado, Jones was held to

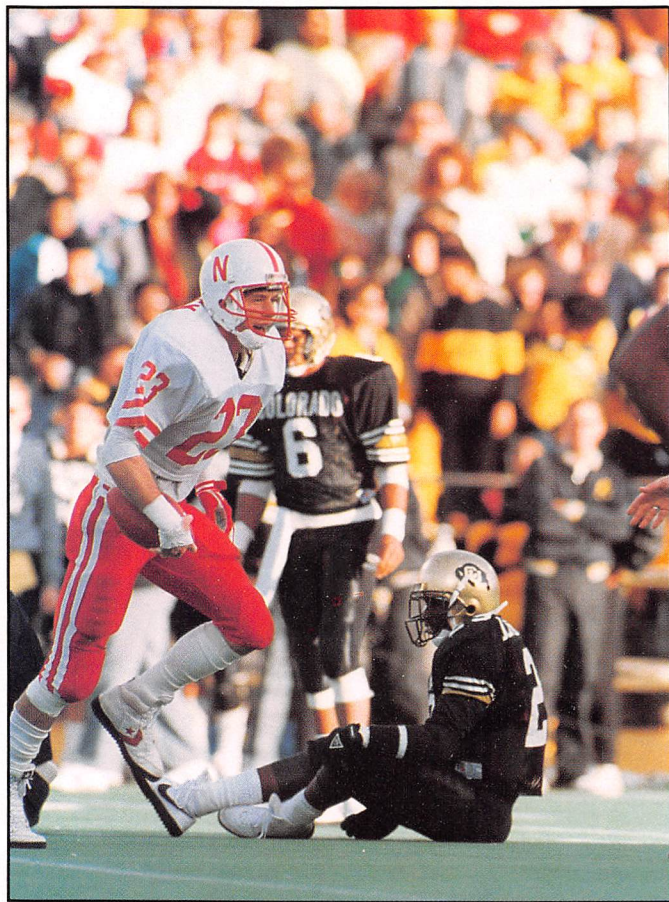
nine yards. The entire NU ground game produced only 123 rushing yards. All of Huskerdom seemed to moan that Jones was not a great back and that his offensive line was not a great line. After Jones cut Colorado's throat with 44- and 50-yard touchdown runs and the offensive line paved the way for 419 team rushing yards against the nation's No. 16 team in scoring defense, the word "great" seemed to fit both in 1987, especially in the character department.

Coach Tom Osborne hid nary a bit of his concern about this game. "There's a 50-50 chance we could lose," he said earlier, sounding after the OU loss as if he were on the tragic end of a suicide-prevention hotline. "We got whipped. I got outcoached. Barry Switzer outcoached me again, like he has over the years. I'm very concerned about how we respond for Colorado." Evidently presuming the Huskers, indeed, had one foot in the grave, CU Coach Bill McCartney chose to dress





Safety Mark Blazek (23) and the Cornhuskers had plenty to smile about after his second-quarter interception.



## SCORING SUMMARY Nebraska vs. Colorado

NU .....	0	10	7	7	—	24
CU .....	0	0	7	0	—	7

- NU — Taylor 5 run, Drennan kick.
- NU — Drennan 50 field goal.
- NU — Jones 50 run, Drennan kick.
- CU — Hemingway 4 pass from Hatcher, DeLine kick.
- NU — Jones 44 run, Drennan kick.

his team appropriately and assigned all-black uniforms, which turned out to be his idea and not his players'. And, in fact, it was Colorado that did the grieving this Saturday, except for a handful of snaps.

Nebraska opened with turnovers on its first two possessions, which sent the previously 7-3 hosts into an arm-waving frenzy that resembled a flock of black crows about to fly en masse from the stadium floor. That hysteria turned to hangdog moping when Neil Smith next blocked Colorado's wind-aided, 39-yard field goal attempt and the Huskers immediately countered with a 77-yard scoring drive.

Jones and his offensive line were at their shocking best on this 15-play march and the field goal-producing drive that followed. For example, Nebraska had driven entirely on the ground from its 24 to the Buff 22, where CU's defense (led by noseguard Kyle Rappold, who often lined up closer to center Jake Young than NU

quarterback Steve Taylor) awaited Osborne's fourth-and-2 strategy. The call went to Jones. He started over right guard, got trapped, wrenched his head out of a defender's grasp and finally reversed left for 13 yards and a first down.

Two plays later, Taylor scored from five yards out.

On Colorado's next series, Smith stopped a promising drive by recovering an Erich Kissick fumble at the Husker 29.

It was showtime for the offensive line.

CU's defense licked its collective chops when Nebraska, momentarily stalled at its 40, faced third-and-13 and an obvious passing situation. Instead of passing, though, Osborne gave his linemen a vote of confidence by calling a draw. Backup I-back Tyreese Knox ran sobriety-test straight and shook off several tackles for a 21-yard gain that started with a giant hole.

Offensive success continued for

Nebraska until the drive reached the hosts' 11-yard line, where two penalties pushed back Fiesta Bowl-bound NU. Sophomore Chris Drennan then kicked a 50-yard field goal to give the Cornhuskers a 10-0 lead at the half.

It could have been more. Not only did Nebraska endure two turnovers, but its two-minute offense (which was basically running the ball faster than usual) would have scored again had the game not turned into a soap opera. Like sands through an hour glass, so were the plays of that drive. They slipped away.

And furious Osborne could not convince game officials that his players had really called timeout after Taylor was stopped at the CU one-yard line and before the clock ran out. Osborne and staff debated with officials long after the Husker team departed, only to have several Colorado assistants clap gleefully when the refs walked away, unconvinced.

Still, Nebraska enjoyed a 2-to-1 edge



**Safety Jeff Tomjack takes the high road and end Jon Marco takes the low road to sandwich CU halfback Eric Bieniemy.**

in time of possession, a 15-5 advantage in first downs and 224-78 cushion in total offense in the first half. Flat or self-pitying Huskers were nowhere to be found.

Nebraska scored quickly, almost too quickly, to start the third quarter. NU's first possession featured three pitches to Jones. Pitch up the middle for five, pitch left for 15 and pitch left for 50 big ones. We're talkin' Touchdown City. We're talkin' 17-0. We're talkin' Syracuse No. 5, my eye.

Husker fans in the north of Folsom Field hooted unmercifully as Jones eeked into the same end zone that 20 minutes earlier had been officially impenetrable.

But with barely three minutes gone in the third period, plenty of time remained for Colorado to rally, which the Buffs did. Led by quarterback Mark Hatcher, fullback Kissick and some powerful blocking, McCartney's team drove 77 yards in 14 plays and seven minutes. The march ended with a four-yard pass from Hatcher to freshman George Hemingway.

So, CU clearly stole the momentum, and its sellout crowd roared viciously. The rest of the third quarter was a stand-off with Nebraska still in control but Colorado dangerously enthused.

After five minutes of the final stanza, though, Nebraska had proven itself. An NU drive stalled and John Kroeker, unexpected semi-hero of the Oklahoma game, punted 41 yards only to have Jeff Campbell break up the middle on a 24-yard return that put Colorado at its 46. Husker split end

Morgan Gregory caught Campbell from behind. Otherwise, it could have easily been a three-point game.

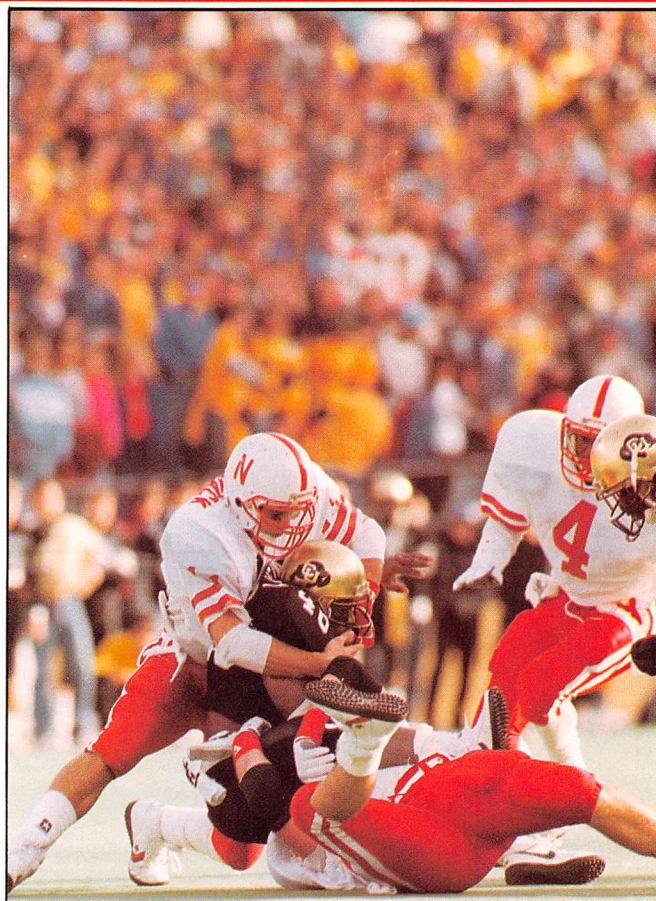
Within seconds, the sans-a-bowl Buffs drooled over a second-and-one situation at the NU 31; that's right — a second-and-one.

With his ground game working so well, McCartney called a pass, which, in retrospect, may rank as the third pre-eminent mystery in college football this year. Anyway, it was blocked. On third-and-one, halfback J.J. Flannigan

took an option pitch right and was instantly flattened by free safety Tim Jackson for a two-yard loss.

Colorado eventually tried a 50-yard field goal that failed, and Jones scored from 44 yards out on Nebraska's next possession to end all scoring.

Afterwards, T.O. was himself again. Hands stuck deep in his pockets, Osborne mangled his traditional post-game chewing gum and said, "The defense played pretty good, and we had fairly good success running the ball."



SEASON RECAP	9/5 USU	9/12 UCLA	9/26 ASU	10/3 S.CAR	10/10 KU	10/17 OSU	10/24 KSU	10/31 MU	11/7 ISU	11/21 OU	11/28 CU	BOWL	SEASON AVG.
First Downs	32	25	22	24	23	36	26	23	30	11	22		24.2
Yards Rushing	515	117	364	268	363	466	456	356	604	197	419		372.8
Yards Passing	88	153	95	138	100	151	203	156	62	58	3		115.5
Fumbles-Lost	6-3	4-3	3-2	1-1	1-0	3-1	2-2	4-2	5-3	0-0	2-1		3-2
Time of Possession	51%	47%	49%	66%	52%	63%	59%	60%	54%	41%	53%		54%
Third Down Conversions	7-12	8-13	9-16	6-15	5-14	3-8	10-16	6-12	5-16	3-14	6-2		6-13
Final Score	56-12	42-33	35-28	30-21	54-2	35-0	56-3	42-7	42-3	7-17	24-7		38.5-12.1



# Security Mutual Life is proud to present **PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

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Photo by John Bills

*Keith Jones (6) helped Nebraska return to its winning form with a career-best effort.*

Against the pesky Buffs, an All-Big Eight performance was needed. CU finally got its wishbone untracked in the third quarter and scored on a 77-yard drive to cut Nebraska's lead to 17-7. Two possessions later, though, Jones ended all suspense by breaking a couple of tackles and zipping 44 yards for the clinching TD.

"Keith did some things today that 90 percent of the running backs in America couldn't do," Coach Tom Osborne said afterwards. "He broke a lot of tackles and he showed a lot of speed. And I'd almost have to say his biggest run was in the second quarter when he got 13 yards and the first down after it looked like he was stopped. We'd turned the ball over on our first two possessions, and his fourth-down run kept us going and got us in the end zone." Jones finished the regular season with 1,232 yards, the fifth-best rushing campaign in Husker history. With 2,564 career rushing yards, Jones is No. 3 on Nebraska's all-time rushing chart behind Mike Rozier and I.M. Hipp. The senior from Omaha is also the Huskers' No. 4 touchdown scorer in history as he completed his regular-season career with 31 TDs.

"I'd just like to thank God for the ability He's given me, and I'd like to thank my offensive line for helping make all this possible," the trench coat-clad Jones said after the win. "This was the real Nebraska today. It wasn't us against Oklahoma. I'd love to have another shot at them, but I don't want to look back." ■

## Jones Adds to Hot Streak

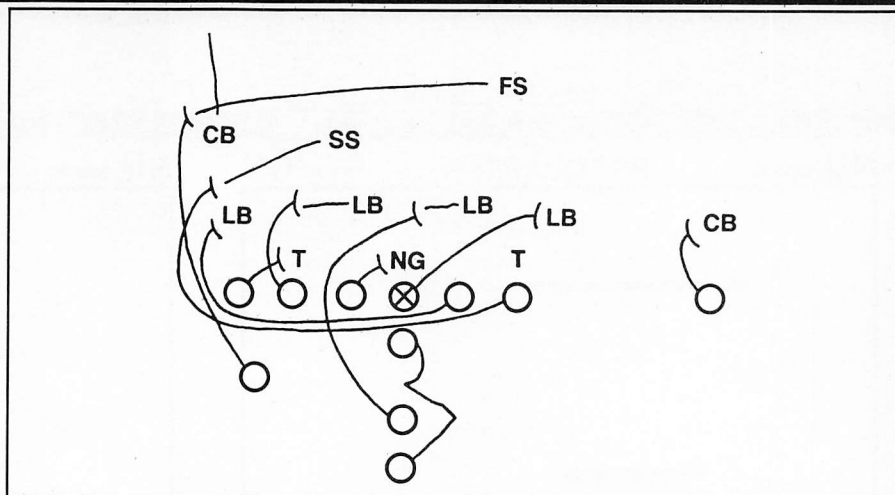
Surely, someone can find an NCAA loophole and get Keith Jones one more year of eligibility. Just as the senior's career is coming to an end, he's exploded into full I-back blossom, and he thoroughly thumped Colorado with two long-distance touchdowns and a

career-high 248 yards rushing.

He's easily this week's Player of the Game.

In the month of November, Jones averaged 197 yards per game and wrapped up his second seat on the All-Big Eight team.





## Counter Attack Slows Buff Mania

Which way did he go? Don't ask Colorado for the answer because, on 49-Counter Sweep, the Buffs didn't have a clue where senior I-back Keith Jones was headed.

Nursing a 10-0 lead early in the third quarter, Nebraska called a misdirection play that would leave Colorado strung out from sideline to sideline, and Jones scored on this 50-yard sprint to all but put the season finale out of reach.

Because of that good timing and excellent blocking, 49-Counter Sweep is this week's Play of the Game.

This scoring drive started with relatively good field position (at the Husker 30) following a 10-yard punt return by Dana Brinson. From there, Jones took a couple of pitches all the way to midfield.

The ball was set on the left hash mark, and the Buff free safety naturally overshifted to the wide (right) side of the field, where there was more running room. Although that's usually a smart move because most teams don't like to run to the cramped side of the field, in this case it was a mistake.

Nebraska sent split end Rod Smith wide to the right, but posted the tight end and wing back left for blocking purposes. Coach Tom Osborne had his Huskers lined up in a basic pro-left formation, but the play unfolded as if it was going right.

First, quarterback Steve Taylor reversed out from under center to the right, or wide side. Jones took two quick steps, also to the right side, and

almost everything pointed to a pitch right. Instead, Jones instantly cut back left and took a handoff from Taylor, who then baffled the Buffs by carrying out a great bootleg fake to the open field.

Fullback Micah Heibel, in the meantime, slipped between the left guard and tackle to seal off the off-side line-backer. Left guard Andy Keeler

*That touchdown run gave Jones 160 rushing yards on only 17 attempts. It also helped ensure the Omaha senior of the 10th 100-yard game of his career and helped push him to his second 200-yard game in November (he ripped Iowa State for 240 yards).*

pinched noseguard Kyle Rappold away from the play, and left tackle Bob Sledge also isolated CU's standout linebacker Eric McCarty, who was playing on the strong (tight end) side.

Probably the key block came from Brinson as he slipped upfield to take out free safety Rodney Rogers. That allowed Jones to turn a good run into a great run.

However, 49-Counter Sweep might not have even been a good run if it weren't for the pulling blocks of All-American guard John McCormick and All-Big Eight tackle Keven Lightner, both anchoring the right side. McCormick pulled and ran completely around the line of scrimmage to take out Colorado's outside linebacker, and

Lightner squashed the strong safety, neither feat being easy since they had to stay ahead of the speedy Jones.

With an open lane to the outside, Jones simply outran the defensive pursuit and tumbled into the end zone following a futile tackle by CU at the goal-line. Chris Drennan's 52nd consecutive extra point kick of the year made it 17-0, and those additional seven points made a big difference.

Colorado needed at least two TDs and a field goal, and that put added pressure on their ground-oriented wishbone offense. Coach Bill McCartney's team responded with an impressive, 77-yard scoring drive that cut it to 17-7, but the Buffs were now fighting the clock as well as the Black Shirts. They couldn't beat both.

That touchdown run gave Jones 160 rushing yards on only 17 attempts. It also helped ensure the Omaha senior of the 10th 100-yard game of his career and helped push him to his second 200-yard game in November (he ripped Iowa State for 240 yards).

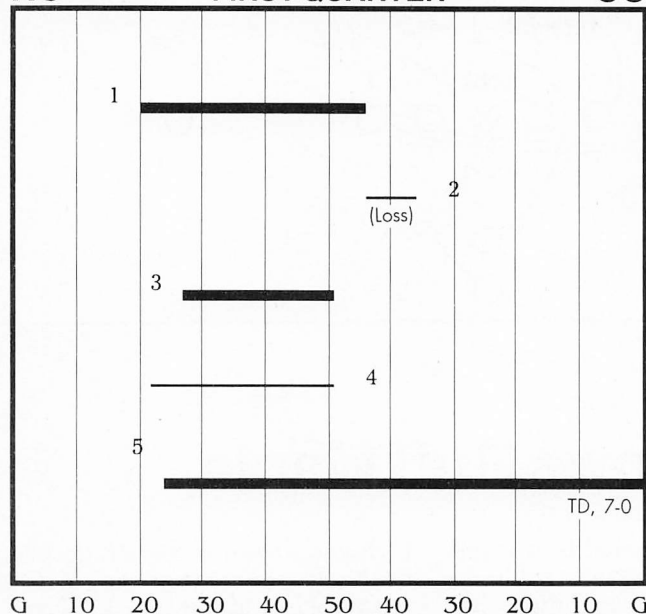
With the 50-yard TD on 49-Counter Sweep and his 44-yard scoring run in the fourth quarter, Jones has now produced five runs of more than 40 yards this season, and his 7.2 yards-per-carry average is the best by a Husker since Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier averaged 7.8 yards a pop in 1983.

But probably the most important thing about 49-Counter Sweep was that it gave Nebraska its biggest lead over the Buffaloes and its most convincing win over Colorado since 1983. ■

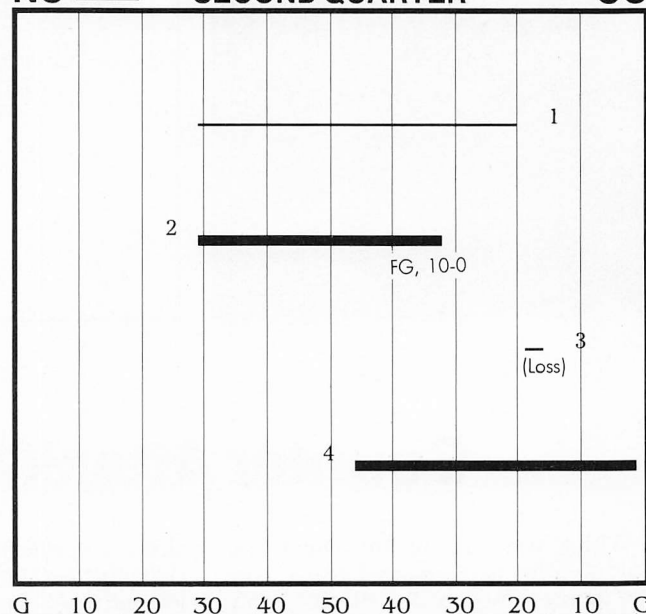


# Saturday Replayed

## NU — FIRST QUARTER — CU



## NU — SECOND QUARTER — CU



Saturday, Nov. 28, 1987 at Folsom Field, Boulder, Colo. Kickoff: 2 p.m. (MST). Temperature: 42 degrees. Sunny and clear. Wind: 5 m.p.h. out of the southwest.

### FIRST QUARTER

Colorado wins the toss and defers until the second half. Nebraska elects to receive and defend the north goal.

1. NU starts from its 20 following the touchback, and CU is hit with 5 offsides penalty. Keith Jones then goes over center for 7 for FD. Next, Jones adds 3 before Steve Taylor sprints left for 11, slipping down. Micah Heibel then gets 3 up the middle. On another option, Taylor keeps for 2 to the CU 49 and hurts an ankle. On the next play, backup QB Clete Blakeman enters to throw, but is intercepted by Mickey Pruitt at the Buff 44. No return.

2. CU takes control at its 44 with Erich Kissick going 5 over center. J.J. Flanagan then takes option pitch left for 2 and out of bounds. However, Buffs are whistled for unsportsmanlike conduct and lose 15. QB Mark Hatcher throws incomplete on 3rd down, and drive dies at the CU 36. Barry Helton punts 46 with Dana Brinson returning 9.

3. NU begins at its 27 with Taylor pitching to Jones for 4 and then 5. On 3rd-and-11, Jones converts with 3 run. Next, Taylor keeps for 7, but loses ball on arm tackle. Colorado recovers at its 49.

4. CU takes over at its 49 and Eric Bieniemy sprints for 18 down right sideline. He gets call against for 4 more. Hatcher then keeps for 9 and FD to the Husker 19.

Kissick adds 1 before CU is called for illegal procedure, losing 5. Kissick gets 2 back but Flannigan loses 2 to the NU 22. From there, Dave DeLine attempts a 39 field goal, which is blocked by Neil Smith and recovered 2 yards upfield by Lorenzo Hicks.

5. NU begins at its 24, and FB Bryan Carpenter opens with 1 over center. Jones then sprints wide right twice for 12 and 11. Tyreese Knox runs 3 up the gut. Taylor is then swarmed for 1 loss. On 3rd-and-8, CU is flagged for offsides, making it only 3rd-and-3, and Taylor converts with 4 run to the Buff 41. Jones takes back-to-back pitches into the line for 2 and 7, respectively, and Taylor converts 3rd-down challenge with 2 dive. He then tacks on 5 with option keeper before NU is whistled for procedure and loses 5. Taylor responds with another 5 run before completing the only Husker pass of the day, a 3-yarder to Jones, making it 4th-and-2 at the CU 22. Jones goes off right tackle where he is stopped for an instant but reverses field for 13 and FD at the Buff 9. Two plays later, Taylor options left for 5 and scores TOUCHDOWN. NU leads, 7-0.

### SECOND QUARTER

1. CU starts from its 20 following touchback. Kissick gets 3 up the middle and Bieniemy is stopped for 0 gain before Buffs are whistled for delay of game, losing 5. On 3rd-and-12, Hatcher hits Lance Carl for 18 and FD in Husker territory. Kissick bulls for 2 before Hatcher runs twice, for 6 and 4, to convert another 3rd down. Kissick then fumbles after 3 gain and Neil Smith

recovers at the NU 29.

2. NU starts from its 29 with Carpenter struggling for 1. Knox then rumbles for 12, but on next carry is thrown for 2 loss. Taylor then throws incomplete, making it 3rd-and-12. Instead of passing, Huskers send Knox on draw for 21 and FD at CU 39. Workhorse Knox then gets two calls and picks up 5 and 7 before Taylor passes, again incomplete, tipped at the line. On QB draw, Taylor scrambles for 13 to the CU 14. Carpenter gains 3 then things turn sour. NU called for holding and then flagged for intentional grounding on next play. Facing 3rd-and-29 from the CU 33, Knox draws for 1. From the Buff 32, Chris Drennan enters to kick a 50 FIELD GOAL. NU leads, 10-0, with 3:41 left in the half.

3. CU takes control at its 19 following a 19 return. Hatcher loses 3 on option keeper than throws deep upfield into traffic, where Charles Fryar tips ball and Mark Blazek intercepts with 2 return.

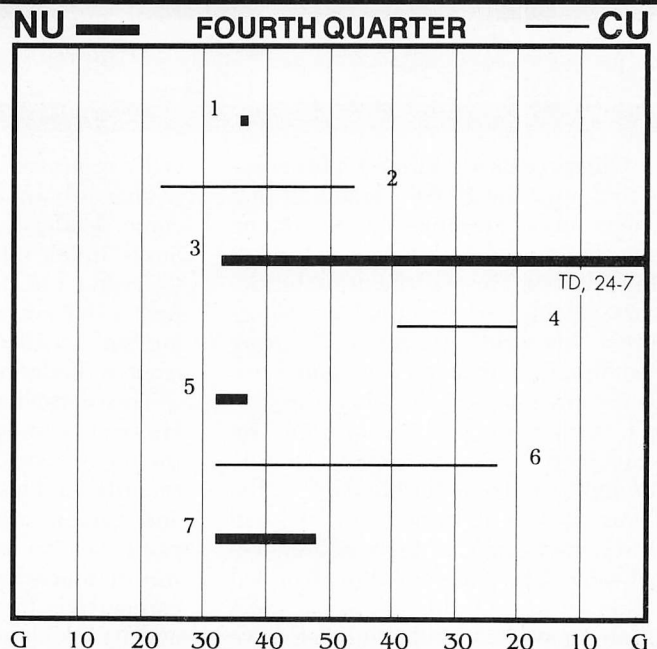
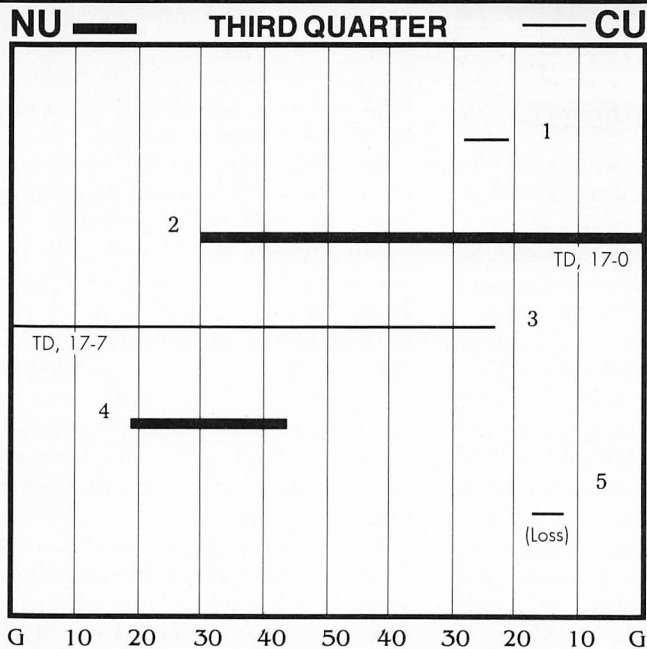
4. NU begins at the Buff 46, and Taylor keeps for 5. Jones carries twice, picking up 8 and FD. Both then trade 5-yarders, putting NU on the Buff 28. Taylor then bounce passes to Richard Bell, who takes the lateral and reverses for 18 to the CU 5 with only 14 seconds left. NU snaps twice, reaching the Buff 1, but can't score as the half ends.

### THIRD QUARTER

Colorado, with the option, elects to receive and will defend north goal.

1. CU starts from its 21 following the return. Hatcher keeps for 7, then loses 2. On 3rd-and-5, he keeps for 2 up the mid-





ple and drive stalls at CU 28. Helton enters to punt 52 with 10 return by Brinson.

2. NU begins at its 30 with traditional pitch to Jones, this time for 5. Two more pitches to "End Zone" follow, the first for 15 and second goes for 50 down left sideline for TOUCHDOWN. NU leads, 17-0, with 11:54 left in 3rd period.

3. CU starts from its 23 following return out of end zone. Hatcher throws deep to Carl, but Steve Forch knocks it away. Hatcher then keeps, rolling wide left to gain 4, making it 3rd-and-5. Next, Huskers are flagged for offsidess, and CU needs only 1 to convert. Hatcher sneaks for 3. Finally, Buff wishbone starts clicking, and Kissick rumbles over center for 5. Bieniemy then streaks down right sideline and hauls in 18 strike to the CU 47. M.J. Nelson follows up with 17 reverse, although he fumbles when tackled. Buffs recover at Nebraska's 36. Lawrence Pete stuffs Hatcher for only 1 gain, but senior QB rebounds with 18 option keeper to the Husker 17. Kissick then carries three straight times, picking up 15 yards and reaching the NU 2. Bieniemy slips for 2 loss, but Hatcher next throws to George Hemingway for 4 and TOUCHDOWN. NU leads, 17-7, with 4:57 left in 3rd period.

4. NU starts from its 19 following 11 return by Bell. No surprises as Taylor pitches to Jones for 5 then 3 more. On 3rd-and-2 from the Husker 27, Jones goes wide left for 8 and FD. Senior I-back carries twice more for a total of 5 yards, but on 3rd down, Taylor is stopped 1 short of FD at the NU 44. John Kroeker punts 40, out of bounds.

5. CU takes over at its 17 with Hatcher

passing, but it's broken up by Lorenzo Hicks. Hatcher then keeps over left end for 9. On 3rd-and-1, Buffs called for illegal procedure and lose 5. CU goes with option pitch to Bieniemy, but bad toss goes backwards with Buffs recovering back at their 12. Helton enters to punt 46, with Brinson losing 6 on return.

#### FOURTH QUARTER

1. NU starts from its 36 with Heibel fighting for 1 up the middle. Taylor then throws incomplete. On 3rd-and-9, Taylor's pass is dropped. With drive stalling at the Husker 37, Kroeker punts 41, but Jeff Campbell scoots up middle for 24 return.

2. CU begins at its 46, and Kissick takes it up the gut for 5. Pitch to Bieniemy nets 4, bringing up 3rd-and-1. However, Buffs easily get FD as Kissick pounds over right guard for 5. Flannigan takes textbook option pitch for 9. After an incompleteness, the previous play is almost identically repeated, as Flannigan options right, but Tim Jackson explodes to force a 2 loss. CU drive stalls at the NU 33 and Ken Culbertson attempts a 50-yard field goal which drifts wide right.

3. Huskers take over on their 33. Like the second NU scoring drive of the day, this one is all Jones. He starts with 22 up the middle, follows with only 1 off right tackle then breaks down the right sideline for 44 and TOUCHDOWN. NU leads, 24-7, with 9:34 left, and Folsom Field starts to empty.

4. CU starts from its 20 following the touchback, and Buffs open with pass incompleteness over the middle. Kissick then takes it over center but fumbles after gaining 2. Buffs recover. On 3rd-and-8, Hatch-

er rolls right and passes over the middle to Carl for 22 and FD at the Buff 44. Trying to pass again, Hatcher is sacked on the next play by Jon Marco. Hatcher next options left and picks up 3, but he is also injured and carried off the field, not to return. With Rick Wheeler at QB (CU's third-string signal caller), the Buffs are in trouble. Wheeler throws incomplete, and drive dies at the hosts' 39. From there, Helton enters to punt 40, with 6 return by Brinson.

5. NU starts from its 32 as Buffs are flagged for facemask on punt return. A holding penalty against Nebraska negates a 5 run by Knox, and, instead, Huskers absorb 10 loss. Facing 1st-and-20, Knox explodes for 19 over right guard. Jones then takes a pitch left for 4 to pick up the FD. A couple of minus-yardage runs by Taylor are sandwiched around a 1 run by Jones, and Huskers face 4th-and-18 from their 37 with 3:24 left in game. Kroeker punts 41 with no return.

6. CU takes over at its 23, and Wheeler immediately goes to the air with 17 pass to Campbell. His next pass, though, is knocked down at the line. Wheeler then takes option keeper over left side for 9. On 3rd down, Simmons inches over center for 1 and FD. Wheeler tries a couple of other option keepers, both of which end with no gain. Finally, Wheeler throws down left sideline, but Jeff Jamrog dives to intercept and end the last Buff threat at the NU 32 with 1:30 left.

7. NU starts its last drive from the Husker 32 with Jon Kelley bursting over left side for 13. Sam Schmidt then carries for 9. On last play of the game, Blakeman takes snap and kneels at Husker 48 to end game. FINAL SCORE: NU 24, CU 7. ■



# Notes 'n Quotes

Offensive tackle **Keven Lightner** insisted after the Buffalo branding that there was no revenge motive among the offensive linemen following the loss to Oklahoma. Instead, he used the victory celebration as a platform to express his pride in his bull-doing teammates. "After the OU game, we got reamed in the papers because people thought we got beat up front," he explained. "And even Coach Osborne thought so, too, before looking at the films. But as it turned out, we had three guys grade as high as they had all year. The offensive line handled their guys up front, but it's a team game, and their ends and defensive backs played great. Tell me how you're going to take out (free safety) Rickey Dixon. You've got to give them credit for having good players at just about every position."

Senior split end **Rod Smith** has offi-

cially replaced 1972 Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers as Nebraska's career leader in punt return average. Smith didn't return any kicks against Colorado, but he finished the season with a 16.1 average on 10 returns, giving him a 17.6 standard on 22 career returns. Rodgers' old record was 15.5.

This doesn't mean Nebraska's first Heisman winner has disappeared from the record book. He still holds school records for most returns in a season and career, most return yards in a game, season and career, most punt return touchdowns in a season and career, plus longest return (92 yards against Oklahoma State in 1971).

With three successful PAT kicks against CU, sophomore **Chris Drennan** set a school record for most kick conversions without a miss in a single season. Drennan finished 1987 by hitting all of his 53 attempts. He ended the

year with 71 kick-scoring points in 11 games, but the school record in that category is 82, set by Kevin Seibel in 1982 when the Huskers played 12 contests in the regular season.

Drennan is only 15 PAT kicks short of the NU mark for most consecutive conversions (68, held by Seibel).

Also making the record book this season was junior cornerback **Charles Fryar**, who registered his eighth pass breakup of the year against CU, and for the second season in a row, he tied the school mark for PBUs. With one year of varsity eligibility left, Fryar has 16 career breakups and is only three shy of Nebraska's career record held by three other players.

Fryar will be joined next year by another Husker who is likewise all but assured of breaking a school record. Quarterback **Steve Taylor** ran for 54 yards against the Buffs and finished the '87 campaign with 1,299 career rushing yards, which is only 18 strides short of Turner Gill's school record for quarterbacks. Taylor has already set the standard for single-season rushing by



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a QB (659 yards in '87), and he should overtake Gill on his first few carries next season against UCLA in the season opener unless Utah State is switched again.

With his five-yard TD run in the first quarter against CU, Taylor became Nebraska's all-time leading scorer among quarterbacks, as he registered his 19th career TD. He broke the record previously held by Dennis Claridge and Gill.

The unofficial world record for cowboy-hat throwing was also set against Colorado just before the second-half kickoff. CU's mascot, a live female buffalo, was raced across the playing field by several cowboy handlers who steered her right through some shocked Huskers during their warmup exercises. They scattered, of course, as Ralphie's Revenge bucked her way back to her pin. An unidentified Husker assistant on the field scooped up a pair of black Stetsons that flew off the handlers' heads, and he was steamed. After pinning up Ralphette, the youthful cowboys sauntered to the Husker sideline and asked for their hats backs. What followed was an athletic display that would have made the strong-armed Taylor proud as the hats were slung almost into the stands.

Broderick Thomas enjoyed Colorado's all-black uniforms. "They were real sharp," said he. "We wore all-red uniforms last year against Oklahoma, and we did pretty good with 'em. I don't think it did Colorado a bit of good, though. They're not Nebraska." CU Coach **Bill McCartney** prepared for the all-black threads months in advance then sprung them on his players when they entered the locker room after pre-game warmups.

Said CU noseguard **Kyle Rappold** of the Huskers: "I hate 'em, I loathe 'em, but I sure do respect 'em."

Current Huskers' defensive coordinator **Charlie McBride** was an end and punter for 9-2 Colorado in 1961, when the Buffs suffocated NU, 7-0, in a record-setting defensive performance. Nebraska made zero first downs, mustered only 31 yards in total offense and ran only 35 offensive plays, all of which are Big Eight records.

In a game that was almost always on the verge of breaking into a hockey match, it looked like a brawl was imminent when CU halfback **Eric Bienie-my** approached the Black Shirt huddle

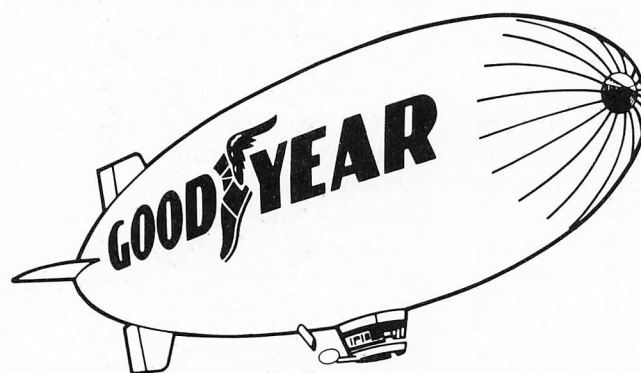
in the fourth quarter. NU had just scored, the game was out of reach and Bienie-my walked right up to Neil Smith and pointed a finger at him.

"I told the guy not to be pointing fingers at Neil," said Thomas. "But as it turned out, he was just telling Neil the he thought they went to the same elementary school. For a second, I thought there was going to be trouble."

Heisman voters might have had even more trouble picking a runner-up to Tim Brown of Notre Dame as CBS's season-long choice for the hallowed trophy had senior I-Back **Keith Jones**

not fumbled so much against UCLA and missed the Kansas affair with an injury. In Nebraska's five televised games besides UCLA, Jones ran for 734 yards and eight touchdowns, averaging 7.1 yards per carry and 147 yards per contest. The only team that held Jones below the century mark was top-ranked Oklahoma, and he still finished with 94 yards.

Trouble is, most Heisman voters had already cast their ballots before the CU game, and those who hadn't probably saved their allotment of Husker votes for Taylor. ■



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## INDIVIDUAL SEASON STATS

### Rushing

Name	Att	Gain	Net	Avg	TD	Long
Jones	170	1245	1232	7.2	13	69
Taylor	130	794	659	5.1	8	58
Knox	62	435	428	6.9	3	50
Heibel	64	356	356	5.6	4	27
Clark	64	356	344	5.4	5	28
Brinson	33	267	250	7.6	0	27
Carpenter	40	185	183	4.6	1	39
Gdowski	18	141	131	7.3	2	28
Bell	13	129	120	9.2	1	46
Kelley	14	112	112	8.0	1	52
Blakeman	27	120	90	3.3	2	29
Schmidt	12	73	73	6.1	0	17
Dalton	4	41	41	10.3	0	23

### Passing

Name	Att	Cmp	Int	Yds	TD	Long
Taylor	123	57	9	902	13	78
Blakeman	37	23	2	361	3	40
Gdowski	2	1	0	8	0	8

### Receiving

Name	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Smith	21	329	15.6	3	48
Millikan	13	287	22.0	4	54
Brinson	13	189	14.5	1	31
Banderas	8	76	9.5	6	22
Gregory	6	58	9.8	0	15
Bell	6	140	23.3	1	78
Hawkins	5	76	15.2	1	40
Sheppard	2	12	6.0	0	8
McCoy	1	18	18.0	0	18

# Statistics

## TEAM STATS

	GAME		SEASON	
	NU	CU	NU	OPP
First downs .....	22	14	266	172
First downs rushing .....	22	9	214	712
First downs passing .....	0	4	46	85
First downs penalty .....	0	1	6	16
Rushing attempts .....	62	44	673	423
Yards gained rushing .....	441	187	4351	1563
Yards lost rushing .....	22	40	243	386
Net yards rushing .....	419	147	4108	1177
Net yards passing .....	3	79	1271	1735
Passes attempted .....	6	14	162	311
Passes completed .....	1	5	81	138
Passes had intercepted .....	1	2	11	17
Total plays .....	68	58	835	734
Net yards .....	422	226	5379	2912
Average gain per play .....	6.2	3.9	6.4	3.9
Fumbles-fumbles lost .....	2-1	4-1	32-19	31-13
Penalties-yards .....	7-64	10-64	73-616	79-465
Interceptions-yards .....	2-2	1-0	17-117	12-85
Punts-yards .....	3-122	4-184	38-1428	76-2893
Average per punt .....	40.7	46.0	37.7	38.0
Punt returns-yards .....	4-19	1-24	40-454	16-110
Kickoff returns-yards .....	1-11	3-63	25-514	46-808
Possession time .....	32:00	28:00	32:12	27:48
3rd down conversions .....	6-12	8-15	72-137	64-154

## INDIVIDUAL STATS

### Rushing

**NU** — Jones 26 carries, 248 yards, 2 TDs, 50 long gain; Knox 8, 66, 0, 21; Taylor 18, 54, 1, 13; Kelly 1, 13, 0, 13; Carpenter 5, 10, 0, 4; Bell 1, 18, 0, 18; Heibel 1, 3, 0, 3; Schmidt 1, 9, 0, 9; Blakeman 1, -2, 0, -2.

**CU** — Kissick 13 carries, 49 yards, 0 TDs, 6 long gain; Hatcher 17, 39, 0, 18; Bieniemy 5, 24, 0, 18; Nelson 1, 17, 0, 17; Wheeler 3, 0, 0, 9; Flannigan 4, 11, 0, 9; Simmons 1, 1, 0, 1.

### Passing

**NU** — Taylor 5 attempts, 1 completion, 0 interceptions, 3 yards, 0 TDs, 3 long play; Blakeman 1 attempt, 0 completions, 1 interception, 0 yards, 0 TDs, 0 long play.

**CU** — Hatcher 10 attempts, 4 completions, 1 interception, 62 yards, 1 TD, 22 long play; Wheeler 4 attempts, 1 completion, 1 interception, 17 yards, 0 TDs, 17 long play.

### Receiving

**NU** — Jones 1 catch, 3 yards, 0 TDs, 3 long gain.

**CU** — Carl 2 catches, 40 yards, 0 TDs, 22 long gain; Bieniemy 1, 18, 0, 18; Hemingway 1, 4, 1, 4; Campbell 1, 17, 0, 17.

### Punting

**NU** — Kroeker 3 kicks, 122 yards, 40.7 average, 41 long kick.

**CU** — Helton 4 kicks, 184 yards, 46.0 average, 52 long kick.

### All Returns

**NU** — Brinson 4 punts for 19 yards; Bell 1 kickoff for 11 yards, Blazek 1 interception for 2 yards, Jamrog 1 interception for 0 yards.

**CU** — Pruitt 1 interception for 0 yards; Nelson 1 kickoff for 21 yards; McCloughan 2 kickoffs for 42 yards, Campbell 1 punt for 24 yards.

### Tackles

**NU** — N. Smith 9 unassisted and 3 assisted for 12 total tackles; Forch 5 and 4 for 9; Etienne 5 and 4 for 9; Jackson 5 and 2 for 7; Thomas 3 and 3 for 6; Blazek 3 and 2 for 5; Marco 4 and 1 for 5; Pete 3 and 2 for 5; Murray 2 and 1 for 3; Hicks 2 and 0 for 2; Fryar 1 and 1 for 2; Tomjack 1 and 1 for 2; Rother 0 and 2 for 2; Welniak 0 and 1 for 1; Jamrog 0 and 1 for 1; Croel 0 and 1 for 1.

**CU** — McCarty 10 unassisted and 8 assisted for 18 total tackles; M. Jones 11 and 5 for 16; Rappold 5 and 8 for 13; Tate 5 and 6 for 11; Pruitt 7 and 3 for 10; Rogers 4 and 5 for 9; McGhee 4 and 5 for 9; Walker 3 and 4 for 7; Nairn 3 and 3 for 6; Williams 0 and 4 for 4; Koch 1 and 2 for 3; Hayes 0 and 1 for 1; Reinhardt 0 and 1 for 1. ■



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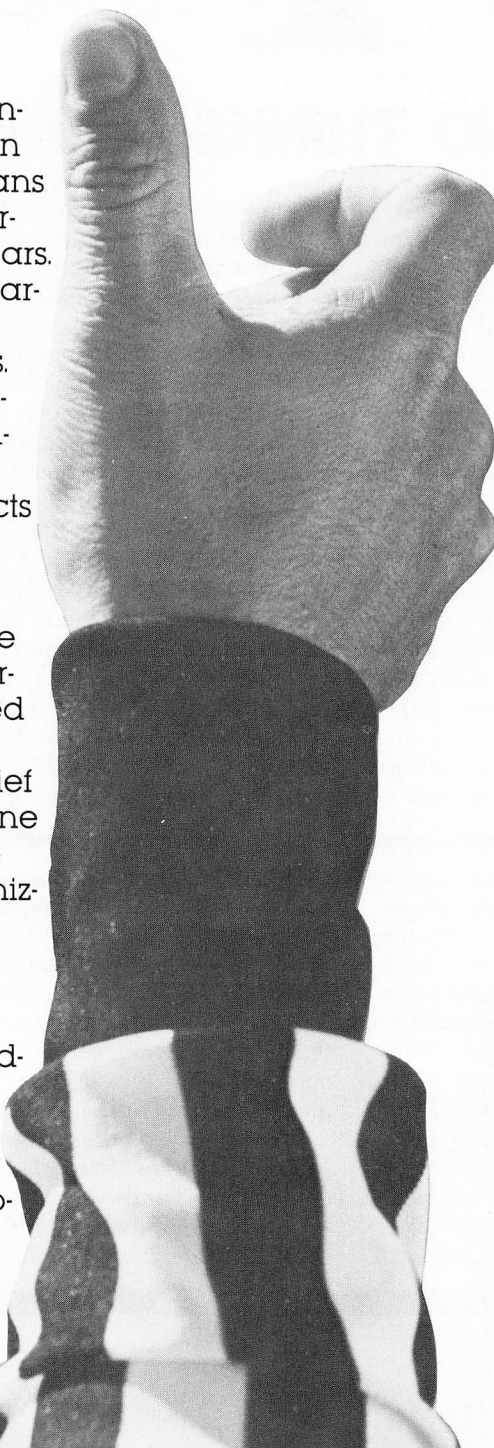
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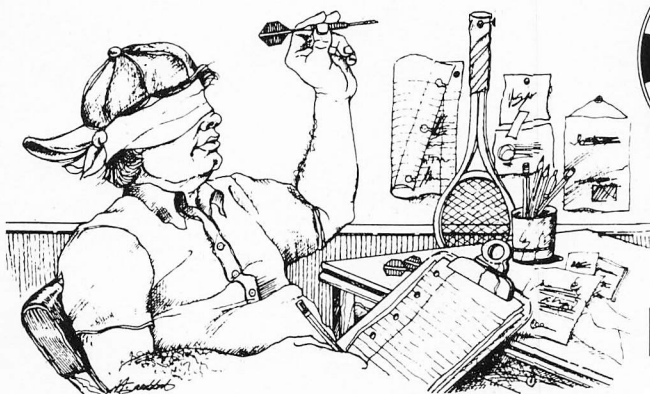
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# Huskers Previewed



## Predictions

## NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS VS FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

### LOCKLAND THINKS FSU BEST IN COUNTRY

As a journalist for the *Fort Myers News Press*, Steve Lockland has seen quite a few intensive battles that have involved teams from the state of Florida. He has been involved with Florida State football for many years and, through those many years of "Seminole-watching," he has seen them play in many big games. He has watched Oklahoma and Florida State battle in the 1981 Orange Bowl. He saw the Seminoles fall at the hands of the Miami Hurricanes in the final seconds earlier this year. And, most importantly to the analyzing of the Nebraska-Florida State Fiesta Bowl matchup, he watched the Huskers and the Seminoles battle each other for the past few years (1985-86). This year, the struggle between these two college football giants takes place in the desert

of Tempe, Ariz., and he is ready to analyze the contest for *Huskers Illustrated* as our guest predictor.

"Those of us down here in Florida feel that Florida State is probably the best skilled team in college football today. They have a great defensive backfield. The only weakness that the Seminoles might have is their lack of speed on the defensive line. They have the best special teams unit in the country. Nebraska is right up there with the best teams in the nation. When you talk about FSU, Nebraska, Miami, and Oklahoma you are talking about the best four teams in the country. I really feel that Florida State is on a level above Miami and even Oklahoma at this point of the year. The Seminoles have more motivation than the Huskers do going into the ball game, also. They

have always had the skill, but people have questioned their intestinal fortitude. The Seminoles really got over the hump with the Florida game. They were down early and came back to win.

"FSU should win the game. They have the all-time NCAA scoring leader (their kicker) and a very solid team. They force the turnovers and capitalize on them very well. The Husker defense will have a hard time controlling the Seminole offense. I really believe the Seminoles are the best team in the country. Two more points against Miami would have proven my point.

"The grass won't hurt either team. If the conditions are right, it shouldn't matter. Nebraska has so much speed at their skill positions that it makes the grass factor irrelevant. This will be a great game." ■

**Godwin Kelly, *Daytona Beach News Journal*, Daytona Beach, Fla:** "I'll say 30-20, Florida State. The key for the Seminoles is that they have one heck of a defense with the All-Americans Sanders and McGowan. Their offense is very tricky. If you shut one part of it down, they switch to some other facet of it. They mix up their offense very well and they have quite a few weapons that they can work with in their offensive scheme. The emotional factor is probably on Nebraska's side. Unusually warm weather in Tempe will

help Florida State a lot because they are used to that kind of weather. If the Seminoles can shut down the Husker option game, they will completely shut the Huskers down. The Seminoles will be trying to jump on Nebraska from the beginning and get in front by a comfortable margin. FSU will be trying to cut the Husker jugular vein."

**Pete Prisco, *Jacksonville Journal*, Jacksonville, Fla.:** "Nebraska 24, Florida State 21. The key for Nebraska to win the Fiesta Bowl is that they must control the football. The Husker offen-

sive line must move Paul McGowan off of the football. A lot of people think that Nebraska is still suffering from their loss to the Sooners, but I don't think that is true. That game was more than a month ago and they have gotten over it by now. It will help the Huskers that they have already played at Tempe once this season (a victory over Arizona State). They got to see what the climate was like and they will remember. The weather should be relatively spring-like, so it shouldn't help or hurt either team. It won't be



a Nebraska winter or a Florida summer. It will be nice for the ball game."

**Michael Losee, *Daily Nebraskan*, Lincoln:** "This will be a really good game, but it won't be as close as many people think that it will be. One reason for that is the new Nebraska indoor practice facility. They can have better quality practice sessions while they are inside instead of fighting the cold

## LEE SAPP'S PICK Nebraska 28 Florida State 24

weather outside. In the bowl games of the past, Nebraska has not looked as sharp as they did during September because of the winter weather and the practices. Their offense won't be slowed down and they will have great timing on their option attack. I'll say **Nebraska 35, Florida State 17**. The timing will be the key to the Husker victory. If Keith Jones plays the way that he was against Colorado and Oklahoma, the offense will be great. He has been the key all year. If they try to stop Keith Jones, Steve Taylor will be throwing the ball quite a bit. The field at Tempe is better than the one at the Orange Bowl. That field in Miami is almost sand. Playing on grass won't hurt the Huskers at all. The only thing that might bother this game would be the fact that both teams know that they can not win the national championship. Florida State will be really up for this game. It seems that FSU studied Nebraska to pattern their offense after. There is a lot of pride on the line in this game. The Huskers will probably call the wing back reverse quite a bit. I think that the Huskers can run the ball right down Florida State's throat."

**Chris Burbach, *Fremont Tribune*:** "Florida State will win the game by the score of **20-17**. Nebraska demonstrated its inability to move the football against Oklahoma and that will be a key factor in this game. Nebraska will be more fired up for this game because they got trashed by the Sooners. The Huskers showed in the OU game that they were not as good as we all thought

they were. You would think that the climate in Arizona would really help the Seminoles, but it didn't help Arizona State when we played them down there. The weather won't help either team. If Nebraska concentrates on shutting down the FSU running game, the Seminoles will burn them in the air and vice versa."

**Del Sutherland, *Falls City Journal*:** "Let's say that the score will be **28-17, in favor of Nebraska**. The Huskers will win the game if Keith Jones finds the end zone twice during the contest. The loss to Oklahoma will not bother the Huskers at all. This is a totally different game and opponent. They can't let the loss to the Sooners bother them. There is nothing down in Arizona that will favor the Seminoles more than the Huskers or the other way around. Not the climate, the bowl hype, or anything else. The Huskers always seem to try a trick play or two in a bowl game but I really don't think that they will need them to win this game. They will beat the Seminoles with their own talents."

**John Brockmann, *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, Sarasota, Fla.:** "Nebraska 28, Florida State 20. For Nebraska to win this game, they must stop the running attack of Sammie Smith. He is the Seminoles' most potent runner and he could really hurt the Huskers on the ground. The weather down in Tempe will not be a factor in the Fiesta Bowl at all. The Huskers will be able to pass the football pretty effectively against the Florida State defense. Steve Taylor should be able to thread the needle several times against the Seminoles. That will probably be the difference in the game."

**John Harris, *St. Petersburg Times*, St. Petersburg, Fla.:** "I'll probably have to go with Florida State to win the contest. The reason that I am picking FSU is because they have the most versatile offense that I have seen this year. Their defense is better this year than it probably has been since Florida State's trip to the Orange Bowl in 1980 when they played the Sooners. I don't think that the loss to Oklahoma will hurt the Huskers that much. They were almost beaten by South Carolina earlier in the year and that was a tell-tale sign of their weaknesses. If the weather in Tempe is extremely hot,

then the game will favor FSU. If it is a normal Arizona day, neither team will have an advantage. The key to the game for FSU will be for the Seminoles to stop the Husker offense and not let Steve Taylor establish himself as a runner or a passer. The defense will be the key. This is Florida State's first big bowl game in a few years and, for Nebraska, it is old hat. FSU will be more fired up for the game than Nebraska will be. Florida State's mental outlook will be better than the Huskers' outlook."

**Bill Bullion, *Clearwater Sun*, Clearwater, Fla.:** "Florida State will beat Nebraska, **28-24**. It is very simple for Florida State to win the football game. They have to neutralize Steve Taylor and the Husker offense. The Fiesta Bowl will be a good place for these two teams to play their football game. The weather will be just beautiful for this football game. Florida State's defense is just about like Oklahoma's. They like to pressure the quarterback from all areas. They love to blitz a linebacker or send a safety flying through the offensive line. Pressure is the key for the Florida State defense and the success that they have had all year. Their defense resembles the Sooners quite a bit. A lot of people think that the game will not be as good of a ball game as it would be if it was for the national championship. I really don't think that. This game will be very important in the eyes of the players. FSU especially. Bobby Bowden and the players really took the loss to Miami very hard. They wanted to go undefeated and be playing for the national championship. The Seminoles will really be fired up for this game. There will be plenty of emotion in this ball game."

**Ben Pfistler, *Palm Beach Post and Evening Times*, West Palm Beach, Fla.:** "This game will be a very good ball game for the people across the nation to watch on TV. **The Huskers will win the contest by six points.** Nebraska will be able to do whatever they want to against the Seminole defense. They can run up and down the field and they will have a great day in the sun in Arizona. This is about the best thing that can happen to the Huskers. It is a great way for Nebraska to start the 1988 year. The Huskers will be having a fiesta in the Fiesta Bowl." ■



# Scouting Report

## FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

Remember the old high school cheer, "Two, four, six, eight, who do we appreciate?" Well, high-scoring Florida State has changed that ditty to, "Seven, fourteen, twenty-one, twenty-eight, whose defense do we annihi-

*With a strong pass rush, Nebraska could throw FSU's offense into recession. QB Danny McManus has only been sacked a handful of times this year.*

late?" The answer is "most everybody's." FSU boasts of the most balanced offense in the country, averaging over 215 yards per game through the air and over 272 on the ground. With all due respect to Oklahoma's

wishbone, FSU probably will give the Black Shirts an equally tough test.

The Seminoles came within an arrowhead of beating Miami (Fla.) and really should have won. FSU demolished highly touted Michigan State (31-3) and Auburn (34-6), both of which were supposed to be good defensive teams.

**Strengths.** . . There are several, the most notable being an offense that averages more than 40 points per game. In the Seminoles' pro-style attack, seven different backs have at least 100 rushing yards this year and 20 different receivers have caught at least one pass. Special teams look great as FSU has blocked six punts and still averaged over 13 yards per punt return.

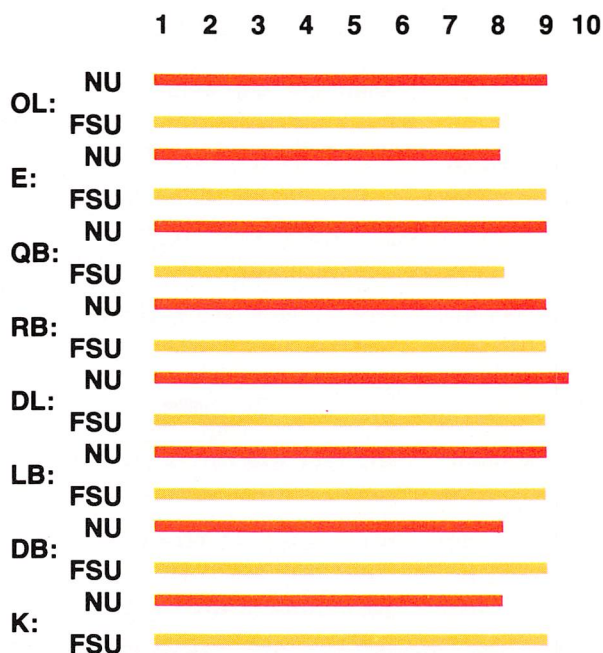
**Weaknesses.** . . On average, they're hard to find. But FSU has been hurt on the ground by some unsuspecting foes; Furman ran for 250 yards against the Seminoles, Southern Mississippi

got 270 on the ground and Michigan State rushed for 234. However, powerful Miami only got 54 yards on the ground versus FSU, so the jury is still out.

**Key Matchups.** . . With a strong pass rush, Nebraska could throw FSU's offense into a recession. QB Danny McManus has only been sacked three times this year. Plus, Nebraska's fullbacks and offensive linemen must neutralize big-play linebacker Paul McGowan, who made 15 tackles against NU in 1986.

**Statistically Speaking.** . . FSU has gained over 500 yards in total offensive six times this year. For such a potent offense, the Seminoles enjoy a tremendous ball-control edge over their opponents, holding the ball an average of almost 33 minutes per game. FSU has set school records this year in scoring offense, total offense and touchdowns scored.

### ON A SCALE...



### NEBRASKA vs FLORIDA STATE

**When:** 1:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 1, 1988.

**Where:** Sun Devil Stadium, Tempe, Ariz.

**Media Coverage:** NBC-TV.

**Florida State Facts:** Head Coach — Bobby Bowden (Samford, 1953), in his 12th year at FSU with a record of 100-37-3 and 173-69-3, overall. School Colors — Garnet and Gold. Nickname — Seminoles. Enrollment — 22,000. Conference — none. Basic Offense — pro-set. Basic Defense — 5-2.

**The Series:** It's tied 2-2 with all games being played in Lincoln. FSU won a couple of squeakers (18-14 in 1980 and 17-13 in 1985) while Nebraska's victories in this series have been blowouts (34-14 in 1981 and 34-17 in 1986). In the nationally telecast game of 1986, Steve Taylor made his collegiate starting debut by rushing for 139 yards and passing for 130 more. In both losses, the Huskers were plagued by turnovers. In the 1985 fracas, current FSU quarterback Danny McManus suffered a concussion in the fourth quarter.



# Coach Osborne Evaluates Florida State

"I thought the players responded well against Colorado. When you sustain a loss like we did against Oklahoma, it affects your confidence, it affects your momentum, it affects a lot of things. But we showed a lot of enthusiasm, and we prepared well for this game. We beat a good team, I don't think there's any doubt about that.

"I don't think there was any dropoff with Mark Hatcher in the game instead of Sal Aunese. Hatcher beat us last year, and he played well again this year.

"Again, the defense did a good job of controlling a dangerous football team. LeRoy Etienne had another outstanding game. Especially early in the game, he made some plays and was our emotional leader.

"I don't know what you can say about Keith Jones that hasn't already been said. He played great. The offensive line did a great job. We had planned to run at 'em pretty hard, and the offensive line did what we asked of them.

"We've got a chance now to be one of the Top 2 or 3 teams in the country eventually, though, we don't have a shot at the national title. But we've got a long way to go, and we'll have to beat a very good Florida State team if we're going to be up there.

"The main thing about Florida State is that they've got great balance. Coach (Bobby) Bowden has one of the best running games in the country, and they throw the ball very well, too. Florida State has produced just as many points and yards as we have.

"They soundly defeated Michigan State and Auburn, and those teams are headed for the Rose Bowl and the Sugar Bowl. I thought Florida State outplayed Miami. Their kicker misses an extra point and a field goal or else they would have won. The flukey thing is that their kicker is probably the best kicker in America. Even with that, Florida State had a chance to beat Miami if their two-point conversion had worked.

"Some people say Florida State may be the best team in the country, and I'm not so sure they're not right.

"Offensively, Florida State has a couple of fine tailbacks in Sammie Smith and Dexter Carter. Smith has proven he's a good back in the last two games

we've played against them. He didn't carry the ball much against us, but he still picked up some big yardage, and he even ran for a long touchdown last year.

"They don't lose much either when Carter's in there.

"Florida State's supposed to have a tight end who's a great pro prospect and will probably be right up with Keith Jackson of Oklahoma. The difference is that Florida State will throw to their guy more often.

"Their offensive line is excellent.

Hey, they ran effectively against Michigan State — the best team in the nation against the run. Florida State also ran over Auburn, and there's another team with a great defensive front. So what can I tell you? We'll have our hands full.

"Defensively, they've got a very mobile linebacker in Pat McGowan, who's an All-American type. From what I understand, Deion Sanders at cornerback may be the best player at his position in the country, plus he's a great punt returner." ■

## SEMINOLE 2-DEEP

### OFFENSE

SE	3	Herb Gainer	6-3	198	sr.
	8	Terry Anthony	6-0	189	so.
LT	69	Joe Ionata	6-3	251	jr.
	77	Eric Luallen	6-4	275	fr.
LG	50	John Brown	6-4	278	so.
	70	Tony Yeomans	6-2	254	so.
C	63	Mark Salva	6-1	251	sr.
	68	Mike Tanks	6-2	250	so.
RG	62	Jason Kuipers	6-2	268	jr.
	65	Hayward Haynes	6-2	272	fr.
RT	72	Pat Tomberlin	6-4	305	jr.
	66	Scott Schilbrack	6-8	270	fr.
TE	85	Pat Carter	6-5	255	sr.
	92	Tom O'Malley	6-3	242	jr.
QB	14	Danny McManus	6-1	199	sr.
	5	Chip Ferguson	6-1	195	jr.
TB	33	Sammie Smith	6-2	220	so.
	13	Dexter Carter	5-9	159	so.
FB	49	Dayne William	6-1	230	jr.
	31	Marion Butts	6-1	245	so.
FL	7	Ronald Lewis	6-0	170	so.
	29	Law. Dawsey	6-0	186	fr.
K	18	Derek Schmidt	5-10	165	sr.

### DEFENSE

LB	93	S. Thompson	6-3	248	so.
	99	Anthony Moss	6-4	220	fr.
LT	78	Eric Hayes	6-3	270	so.
	98	Bart Schuchts	6-4	240	sr.
NG	53	Odell Haggins	6-2	240	so.
	64	M. El Shahawy	6-1	255	fr.
RT	76	Steve Gabbard	6-4	261	jr.
	58	Thomas Harp	6-1	287	sr.
LB	80	Terry Warren	6-3	232	sr.
	47	Kevin Grant	6-2	215	so.
LB	48	David Palmer	6-1	216	sr.
	46	Felton Hayes	6-0	236	jr.
LB	38	Paul McGowan	6-1	230	sr.
	59	Keith Carter	6-3	237	so.
CB	2	Deion Sanders	6-0	190	jr.
	17	Tracy Sanders	6-0	174	jr.
SS	37	Stan Shiver	6-2	204	jr.
	26	Alp. Williams	6-0	203	jr.
FS	40	Greg Newell	5-11	203	jr.
	28	Dedrick Dodge	6-2	165	so.
CB	32	Martin Mayhew	5-10	174	sr.
	17	Eric Williams	5-10	178	sr.
P	91	Rick Tuten	6-1	190	sr.

## CORNHUSKER 2-DEEP

### OFFENSE

SE	19	Morgan Gregory	6-0	185	so.
	82	Hendley Hawkins	5-9	185	sr.
LT	62	Bob Sledge	6-2	270	jr.
	64	Doug Glaser	6-7	290	so.
LG	65	Andy Keeler	6-3	265	jr.
	76	John Nelson	6-0	265	jr.
C	68	Jake Young	6-4	250	so.
	63	John Nichols	6-2	265	sr.
RG	61	John McCormick	6-1	270	sr.
	69	Bill Bobbora	6-3	265	so.
RT	57	Keven Lightner	6-2	285	sr.
	64	Doug Glaser	6-7	290	so.
TE	87	Tom Banderas	6-2	245	sr.
	43	Todd Millikan	6-3	245	jr.
QB	9	Steve Taylor	6-0	195	jr.
	12	Clete Blakeman	6-1	185	jr.
FB	48	Micah Heibel	6-1	225	sr.
	29	Bryan Carpenter	5-9	200	jr.
IB	6	Keith Jones	5-10	180	sr.
	32	Ken Clark	5-9	200	so.
WB	33	Dana Brinson	5-9	170	jr.
	82	Hendley Hawkins	5-9	185	sr.
K	16	Chris Drennan	5-9	175	so.
	39	Dave Cheloha	5-10	180	jr.

### DEFENSE

LE	89	Broderick Thomas	6-3	235	jr.
	93	Jon Marco	6-1	220	jr.
LT	99	Neil Smith	6-5	260	sr.
	75	Ray Valladao	6-3	245	so.
NG	96	Lawrence Pete	6-1	270	jr.
	74	Mike Murray	5-10	240	so.
RT	78	Tim Rother	6-6	265	sr.
	98	Lee Jones	6-1	245	sr.
RE	80	Jeff Jamrog	6-1	220	sr.
	83	Mike Croel	6-3	215	fr.
LB	47	LeRoy Etienne	6-1	230	jr.
	55	Randall Jobman	6-3	230	so.
LB	38	Steve Forch	6-2	240	sr.
	37	Doug Welniak	5-10	215	sr.
LC	8	Lorenzo Hicks	5-11	195	jr.
	26	Marvin Sanders	5-11	190	so.
RC	10	Charles Fryar	5-10	175	sr.
	35	Tahaun Lewis	5-11	170	fr.
SS	5	Brian Washington	6-1	220	sr.
	11	Jeff Tomjack	6-1	210	sr.
FS	23	Mark Blazek	6-2	200	jr.
	4	Tim Jackson	6-0	195	jr.
P	46	John Kroeker	5-11	175	jr.
	13	Craig Schnitzler	5-10	215	sr.



# Confidentially

Herschel Nissenson was shocked. A phone call from *Huskers Illustrated* alerted the Associated Press sports editor that Nebraska I-back Keith Jones wasn't listed on any of the AP All-American teams.

"Let me check under guards — maybe I listed him at a different position," Nissenson said, checking his computer. "My gosh, I can't believe this. He's not in there anywhere." Nissenson went on to explain that Jones, who finished the year with 1,232 rush-

*"If your star player goes down with an injury, will you risk your entire defense on the second-string player that replaces him?"*  
— Orville Henry

ing yards (No. 8 in the country), was a candidate for one of the first three teams. "It's an elimination process as we make the selections from first team on down, and Jones must have been eliminated completely out of our computers," says Nissenson. "It's definitely an oversight. Jones should at least be honorable-mention All-American."

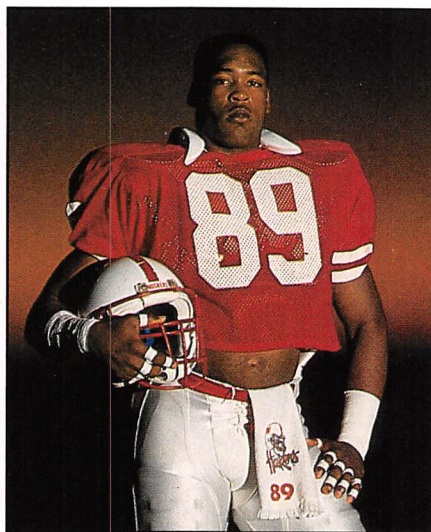
However, the AP will not issue a nation-wide revision. "It wouldn't be feasible for just one player," said Nissenson. "I'm shocked about this whole thing. I hope people understand there is a huge amount of paperwork involved with the selection process. Jones was just inadvertently left off."

Danny Noonan, Nebraska's consensus All-American noseguard in 1986 and now defensive tackle for the Dallas Cowboys, recently spent some time on the phone after lifting weights late into the night. He talked about life as an ex-Husker: "You know, pro football really is just like a regular job. It's nine-to-five. We get to work in the morning about the same time as everybody else. We look at film, go to meetings, then take off for lunch. We'll spend an hour and a half on the field in the afternoon and finish with more meetings. Then we go home and fight the traffic with the rest of 'em."

"I watched the first quarter of the Oklahoma game, that's all. I had to call a couple of days later and give (senior split end) Rod Smith a hard time. It was real nice to talk to my old buddy and remind him that he's never beaten Oklahoma. At least I can say I was on the '83 team that beat 'em down in Norman. But ol' Rod missed out."

"One thing about pro ball, it teaches you that life goes on. Like the John Dutton thing. Here's a guy that really helped me learn the system and the calls when I first came to camp, and then a couple of months later he gets cut, I guess really because of me. I felt kind of uncomfortable about him getting cut, but I'm sure he knew it was just a matter of time. Still, the guy loses his job, and that's a lot tougher to take than losing to Oklahoma."

"Did I mention how Rod Smith has never beaten Oklahoma? I did? Rod's a good guy, you know."

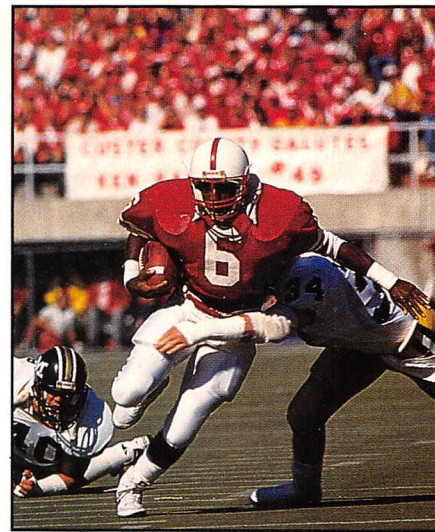


Broderick Thomas

"You won't believe this, but I'm still a lot stronger than these guys in the NFL, just like it was in college. I'd say about 50 percent of the pros lift weights hard and the other half hardly mess with it."

"No, I really haven't splurged on myself now that I'm making money. First of all, I haven't had time. Plus, my contract is set up where I don't get my signing bonus until next year."

"My wife Penny and I are living in



Keith Jones

an apartment until we get a better feel for the future. I want to go back to Lincoln this summer and work on getting my degree. After that, we might look at buying a home in Dallas. It's pretty nice here."

"It's almost like I never left Nebraska — because Coach (Tom) Landry is so much like Coach (Tom) Osborne. Plus, it seems like everybody we play hates Dallas, just like they hated us at Nebraska."

"Well, tell everyone back home I said 'Hi,' and I'm looking forward to seeing Rod in the pros next year. My agent said Rod should be drafted in the middle rounds. Good ol' Rod — million dollar hands and 10 cent feet."

"Tell all the guys they're the greatest, and I'll talk to you later."

The idea of moving All-American Broderick Thomas to another position has been considered by Nebraska coaches, but with thoughtful reservations.

At first blush, it would seem a waste

*"It's definitely an oversight. Keith Jones should at least be honorable-mention All-American."*  
— Herschel Nissenson

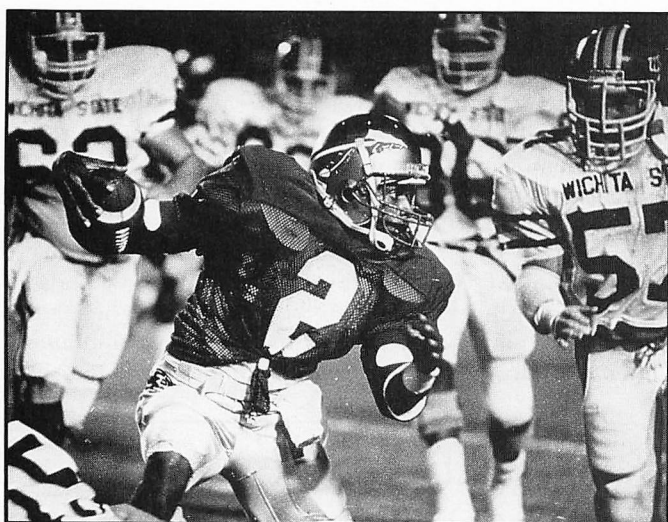
for Thomas to be anchored at left end, a place that most opponents try to avoid. Who can blame the aggressive Thomas for being frustrated? Trouble is, making special arrangements for one player can disrupt the entire defense. ■



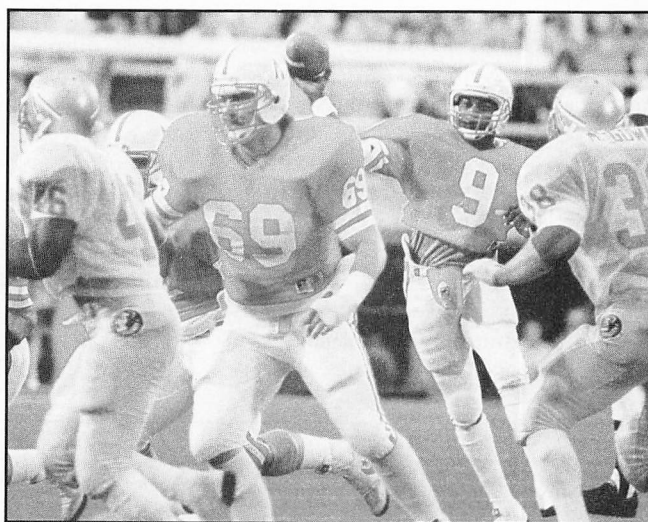
# Fit to be Tanned

Hard-luck Florida State lost to sunshine-rival Miami, but the Seminoles still aren't convinced they're not the best.

By Mark Owens



*Florida State cornerback Deion Sanders (2) made every All-American team in 1987. Here, as a punt returner, he runs wild against the Wichita State Shockers as if they didn't exist, which they didn't, in 1987.*



*In 1986, even a 15-tackle performance by Paul McGowan (38) couldn't stop the Steve Taylor-led Cornhuskers.*

**C**osmic twins of a sort, 10-1 Nebraska and 10-1 Florida State will clash in the Sunkist Fiesta Bowl, where holiday fans may think the biggest difference in the teams is the color of their uniforms.

In a new twist to an old adage among Nebraska players, the Huskers may well be playing against themselves.

Trouble is, Coach Tom Osborne's Cornhuskers usually say that prior to Big Eight yawners, but if No. 3-ranked FSU opens any mouths, it will be because of the Seminoles' all-star talent.

## OFFENSE

On offense, the first clone that Nebraska must stop is sophomore tailback Sammie Smith, who, like NU's Keith Jones, is an uncommon back with a common name. They have a lot in common. Smith averages 123.0 rushing yards per game while Jones aver-

ages 123.2 (both missed one game this year with an injury). The Husker star averaged 7.24 yards per carry and the Seminole stud got 7.15 yards per tote.

Basically, Jones gained two more yards on two fewer carries.

Both possess sprinter speed. Smith owns a 10.58 best in the 100-meter dash and placed third in the 1985 Metro Conference Championships. Jones won the 1985 Big Eight indoor 60-yard dash with a 6.23 bolt. Not surprisingly, both competed on their respective 400-meter relay teams.

Ah, but they are different, too. Smith falls under the "big back" category because of his 6-foot-1, 219-pound frame. Jones is 5-10 by 180 pounds. But that may not be a difference that makes a difference since Jones has shown such stout tackle-breaking ability late this season.

Also in the running game, both

teams start steady-as-she-goes full-backs: Dayne Williams for FSU and Nebraska's Micah Heibel. They're from the same mold. Both are 6-1 while Williams weighs 230, five pounds more than Heibel. Ferocious blocking, not speed, are their assets, and both average about 30 rushing yards per game.

In contrast, though, FSU Coach Bobby Bowden uses his fullback as the designated TD scorer. Williams scored 15 touchdowns this year, almost all in short-yardage situations at the goal line. Heibel hit paydirt just three times in 1987, leaving the glitzy stuff to "End Zone" Jones. Both Williams and Heibel fumble about once every Ice Age.

And when it comes to back-up backs, these Fiesta foes, again, are similar. FSU strikes with Dexter Carter (568 yards rushing and a 5.7 average), who, at 5-9 and 160, fits the Keith



Jones mold. NU features Tyreese Knox (428 yards and 6.8 average) and Ken Clark (344 and 5.3), both of whom are hefty Huskers and more resemble FSU's Smith.

So, each team can attack with both power and speed.

Different as night and day, though, is the quarterback. Florida State's Danny McManus runs about as often as fullback Williams fumbles, but his dashes are as effective as they are rare. Usually, McManus will bootleg as the opposing defense overdoses on its own Smith Repellant. Otherwise, McManus either hands off or throws.

Of course, Steve Taylor does that and more.

The comparative running games are outstanding. Nebraska averages 373 yards a game on the ground (No. 3 nationally), while FSU grinds out 272 (No. 8 in the NCAA). Bowden will attack the Huskers with some of their own medicine: basic pitches, a few counters, fullback blasts and isolation plays.

And, like Nebraska, the Floridians are fond of ramming the football down people's throats. On the same Saturday

that NU was grinding Colorado into submission, FSU steamrolled rival Florida in the second half en route to 279 rushing yards and a 28-14 win.

Bowden simply has the tools to do it. Nebraska's offensive line — with All-American guard John McCormick and All-Big Eight tackle Keven Lightner — has received more publicity than FSU's, but they have similar styles.

"Our offensive linemen are technique masters," says McManus. "They're not really big or overpowering, but they block great as a unit." Osborne has said essentially the same thing about his front five.

All told, nobody but nobody has stopped the 'Nole ground game. Their lowest output was 174 yards against Michigan State — the nation's leader in rushing defense, giving up an average of only 61.5 yards a game. Against the country's No. 5 team against the run, Miami (Fla.), Florida State ran for 225 yards on a whopping 60 carries. And who can forget rough-and-ready Auburn? The Tigers boast of the No. 5 defense against scoring, yet their All-American lineman Tracy Rocker and All-American linebacker Aundray

Bruce hardly dented Florida State's 225-yard rushing effort in a 34-6 whitewashing.

Of course, Bowden and Osborne entertain different pigskin-tossing philosophies. McManus prefers to drop straight back and hit his receivers on short, ball-control routes. He has plenty to hit. Sick and tired of OU's Husker-killer Keith Jackson? Well, FSU features a tight end that pro scouts say is all but Jackson's equal. Pat Carter (6-5, 255) has 4.6 speed and is widely considered *the* best blocking tight end in America. Gil Brandt of the Dallas Cowboys says, "There's no reason he can't play right now in this league." Against Maimi (Fla.), Carter used All-American Dan Stubbs for a blocking dummy, and he stunned Sugar Bowl-bound Auburn with seven catches for 79 yards and one TD. Carter's not much of a long-ball threat, though, averaging less than 10 yards per catch on 28 receptions. His long gain of the year is only 25 yards. The reason for that is because he spends so much time blocking, which he generally does by first going into motion at the line of scrimmage, much like

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Nebraska's wing backs.

But Carter is only Bowden's No. 2 receiver. The top guy is senior split end Herb Gainer with 30 receptions and six TDs. But don't expect FSU to focus only on its statistical leaders; 20 different Seminoles have caught at least one pass, including QB McManus.

The big picture on offense for these talented teams is almost identical. Nebraska's total offense average per game was 489 yards compared to FSU's 487 yards (No. 2 and No. 3 in the nation, respectively). In scoring offense, the Floridians averaged 40.9 points per game to NU's 38.5 (again second and third, respectively). The big difference being that FSU is so very balanced.

#### DEFENSE

On defense, the similarities continue, at least statistically. Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride leads a Black Shirt unit that allowed only 12.1 points per game. FSU gave up 12.3. In total defense, Nebraska surrendered only 264.7 yards while F-State allowed 274.2 yards per game.

But again, the Seminoles are more balanced, giving up just 132 yards on

the ground and 142 through the air. Nebraska's run-pass ratio of 107-157 on defense was skewed because the Huskers faced an armada of passing teams (Utah State, UCLA, Arizona State and South Carolina) early.

When it comes to personnel, however, the Cornhuskers appear to be infinitely more balanced. FSU is essentially led by two superstars: consensus All-American cornerback Deion "Neon" Sanders and All-American linebacker Paul McGowan, who has 150 total tackles this year. Sanders is only a junior and should be a lock for the Jim Thorpe Award (best defensive back) in 1988.

McGowan won the Butkus Award this year, and Bowden says of his consistent senior: "Nobody in the country has a linebacker who has contributed more to their football team than Paul McGowan has for us." McGowan made at least 10 tackles in every game this year.

Sanders and McGowan are joined by some other studs, too. Sophomore noseguard Odell Haggins is small (6-2, 240) but quick, being a converted linebacker. He's registered 64 tackles this

year and is every bit the big-play specialist that McGowan is. Left tackle Eric Hayes (6-3, 270) made 72 stops in '87. These dudes, along with the FSU linebackers (they use four, with the outside backers playing what Nebraska calls defensive end), are the Seminole stalwarts.

But there are some drawbacks in the Seminole "star system." Right tackle Steve Gabbard and outside linebacker Shelton Thompson are conspicuously absent on many plays, and both appear to be clear weaknesses in an otherwise stout defense. Also, depth is a concern at each of the down positions and all but one of the linebacker spots. Should Nebraska's grind-em-down offense control the ball extensively, FSU could wither in the fourth quarter.

Overall, run defense is a mystery at Tallahassee. Bowden's team shut down powerful Miami (Fla.) with only 52 rushing yards and tough Auburn with only 40 yards. But the Seminoles also surrendered 250 rushing yards to so-so Furman and a whopping 270 to 6-5 Southern Mississippi. It should be noted that FSU hasn't faced a team that

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<b>Nebraska</b> .....	<b>10-1</b>	<b>Florida State</b> .....	<b>10-1</b>
Utah State	46-12	Texas Tech	40-16
UCLA	42-33	East Carolina	44-3
Arizona State	35-28	Memphis State	41-24
South Carolina	30-21	Michigan State	31-3
Kansas	54-2	Miami (Fla.)	25-26
Oklahoma State	35-0	So. Mississippi	61-10
Kansas State	56-3	Louisville	32-9
Missouri	42-7	Tulane	73-14
Iowa State	42-3	Auburn	34-6
Oklahoma	7-17	Furman	41-10
Colorado	24-7	Florida	28-14

### Osborne & The Bowls

After 14 bowl games, Coach Tom Osborne owns an 8-6 record against some of the toughest competition in the nation:

**1973 Cotton Bowl:** 9-2-1 Nebraska beats 8-3 Texas, 19-3.

**1974 Sugar Bowl:** 9-3 Nebraska beats 8-4 Florida, 13-10.

**1975 Fiesta Bowl:** 10-2 Nebraska loses to 12-0 Arizona State, 17-14.

**1976 Bluebonnet Bowl:** 9-3-1 Nebraska beats 10-2 Texas Tech, 27-24.

**1977 Liberty Bowl:** 9-3 Nebraska beats 8-3-1 North Carolina, 21-17.

**1978 Orange Bowl:** 10-2 Nebraska loses to 11-1 Oklahoma, 31-24.

**1979 Cotton Bowl:** 10-2 Nebraska loses to 11-1 Houston, 14-17.

**1980 Sun Bowl:** 10-2 Nebraska beats 9-3 Mississippi State, 31-17.

**1981 Orange Bowl:** 9-3 Nebraska loses to 12-0 Clemson, 22-15.

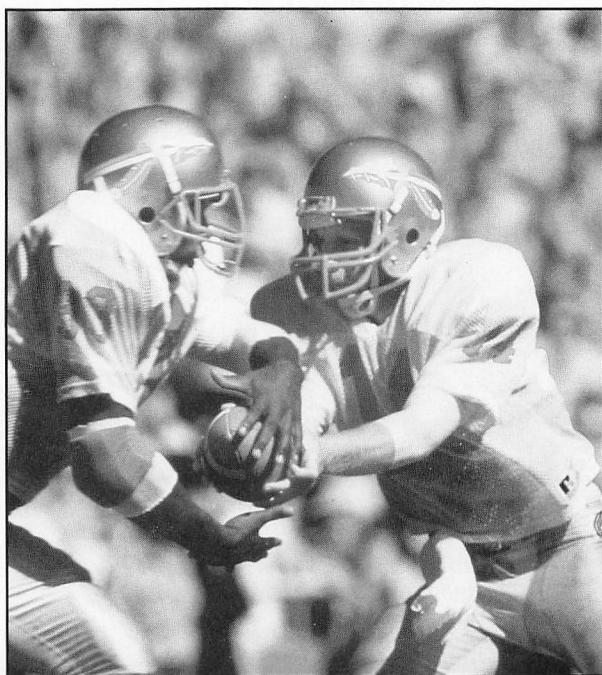
**1982 Sugar Bowl:** 12-1 Nebraska beats 8-3-1 Louisiana State, 21-20.

**1983 Orange Bowl:** 12-1 Nebraska loses to 11-1 Miami (Fla.), 31-30.

**1984 Sugar Bowl:** 10-2 Nebraska beats 8-3-1 LSU, 28-10.

**1985 Fiesta Bowl:** 9-3 Nebraska loses to 10-1-1 Michigan, 27-23.

**1986 Sugar Bowl:** 10-2 Nebraska beats 9-3 LSU, 30-15



*Quarterback Danny McManus and running back Sammie Smith both saw action in the 1985 game at Lincoln.*

even remotely resembles Nebraska's ground game.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Both have special teams that are extra special. Florida State averages over 13 yards per punt return thanks to Sanders, who is about the only deep back the Seminoles ever use. Normally, Bowden's team will rush the punter with 10 men, and the result is six blocks this season. Sanders returned a punt for 49 yards and touchdown against Tulane.

The biggest weapon for FSU on special teams, though, is placekicker

Derek Schmidt, who is the NCAA's all-time leading kick scorer with 393 points. He's the top kick scorer in the nation this year with 116 points, including a school-record 23 field goals (in 31 attempts). The only knock against Schmidt is that he most likely cost Florida State a head-to-head shot at Oklahoma and the national title after he missed an extra point and field goal in the Seminoles' 26-25 loss to Miami. Schmidt probably could have made several All-American teams this year if it hadn't been for his career-long habit of making his field goal flubs in big

games.

Their punter is average.

Still, Florida State unquestionably has the best special teams attack of any opponent Nebraska has faced this year.

### INTANGIBLES

For all the similarities between the 1987 versions of Nebraska and Florida State, there's also hardly any change, personnel-wise, in the Seminole lineup of 1986, when NU thumped the Floridians, 34-17, in Lincoln. FSU finished that season at 7-4-1 with an extremely young team (only three seniors started in a 27-13 win over Indiana in the All-American Bowl). Sammie Smith ran for 72 yards against the Huskers last year, including a 57-yard touchdown run. Linebacker McGowan had 15 tackles, Sanders returned a punt for one yard and make five tackles. The missing ingredient, though, was quarterback McManus. Having endured *two* concussions in the '85 season, he was a bit slow in regaining his old form. But McManus did later recapture his starting role from Chip Ferguson last season.

McManus credits FSU's 187 turnaround to maturation. Says he, "We had a few guys last year who weren't mature enough to think of the team first. Some players were just out to pump up their own stats. This year we've grown up a lot, even though we're still a pretty young team." True. Bowden will start just nine seniors, and there are only 12 seniors on the 44-man, two-deep roster. Along those same lines, Nebraska will field 11 senior starters and a total of 17 seniors on the NU two-deep, which in Osborne's program amounts to Cornhusker Kindergarten. Both squads should be as good or better next season.

In 1985, when Florida State upset, Nebraska, 17-13, Bowden's club did plenty of damage with a couple of sophomore stars who return for the Fiesta Bowl as seniors. McGowan made 14 tackles and one interception that day while being named by *Sports Illustrated* as its national Defensive Player of the Week. McManus hit 15 of 27 passes for 172 yards and one TD against the Huskers before being knocked out in the fourth quarter with a concussion.

What does it all mean? Two of the best teams in the country will jockey for position in the Fiesta Bowl to see who gets the best start in the 1988 national title race. ■





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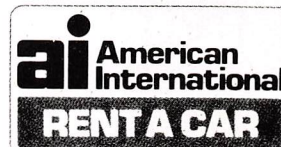
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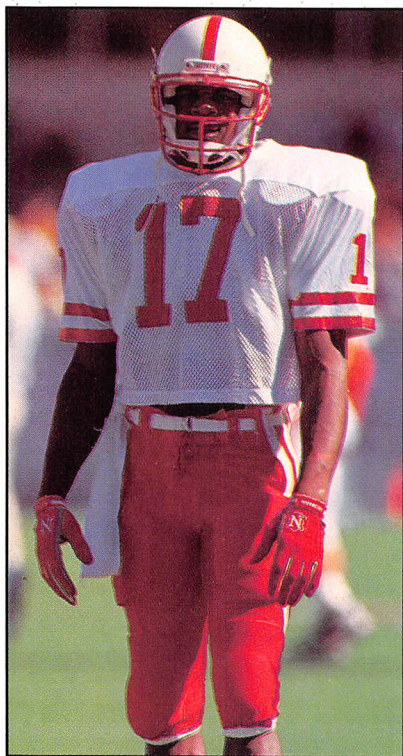
# Divided & Conquered

Nebraska's talented freshmen class of '87 was split between the varsity, junior varsity and training room, and the JV program suffered accordingly.

Let's try to look at the season rationally, which, of course, is going to be difficult considering the Nebraska freshman-junior varsity football team has never suffered through anything like it.

To find something comparable, in fact, you'd have to go back to 1957, when the team was entirely freshmen and played only two games, both of them losses, 33-19 to Iowa State and 31-6 to Kansas State. The Cornhusker varsity suffered similar frustration that fall, its only victory in 10 games coming at the expense of Kansas State, 14-7.

The 1957 freshmen were the basis for varsity teams that won 11 of 30 games during the next three seasons under Coach Bill Jennings.



*Reggie Cooper's fast start as a freshman, ironically, helped slow down the JV squad.*

Anyway, try to forget that the 1987 Cornhusker jayvees lost their last three games and finished with a 2-3 record, or at least, don't base an assessment of this year's freshman class on those facts. Keep in mind that Max Emfinger, the self-proclaimed super scout from Houston, Texas, the founder of the National High School Recruiting Service and the man to whom hundreds, even thousands, of fanatics turn during college football's second season — recruiting — rated Nebraska sixth on his 1987 Fabulous 15 list. Also, remember that the Cornhuskers' 1987 recruiting class was tied for 11th in Emfinger's Power Ratings.

As a point of reference, Emfinger ranked Nebraska's 1985 recruiting class the best in the country. That group, you'll recall, included Broderick Thomas, Steve Taylor and LeRoy Etienne, whose subsequent success would seem to lend some credibility to Emfinger's ratings. Obviously, they aren't compiled in a haphazard manner.

Okay? Now, let's digress a minute, turn the clock back to October of 1985. Coach Dan Young's Cornhusker jayvees had just defeated Coffeyville, Kan., Community College, tied for 14th in the National Junior College Athletic Association rankings, 30-7 at Memorial Stadium.

Coffeyville's Dick Foster, whose coaching success at the junior college level earned him a feature story in *Sports Illustrated*, discussed the loss. "They've got great talent," he said of Nebraska's jayvees. "If we had an all-star team out of our league, we still couldn't beat Nebraska with that talent. They had a great recruiting year." Foster determined that without reading Emfinger's releases.

Taylor scored one touchdown, on a 62-yard run, and passed for another, 27 yards to tight end Bump Novacek, a performance that prompted Foster to call him "as good as I've ever seen. I've

been coaching in college for 20 years, and I've never seen a quarterback who could do the things he does," Foster said. If Young had left Taylor and "that first group in, offensively, they'd have scored in the 50s against us. There's no question." That first group included I-back Tyreese Knox, a redshirted freshman on loan from the varsity, who ran for 110 yards and two touchdowns.

Nebraska's defense, which limited the Red Ravens to six first downs and 213 yards, was led by Etienne. "That (jersey) No. 47 is a great, great linebacker," Foster said. "I don't see how they can keep No. 47 from playing with the varsity as a true sophomore next year."

The Cornhusker coaches didn't. Etienne played.

The previous season, Nebraska's jayvees had rallied to defeat the Red Ravens, No. 1 in the NJCAA ratings at the time, 31-26 in Coffeyville. Foster alluded to that game in summarizing the loss in 1985. "They only played seven or eight scholarship kids against us last year, and this year they had 20 or 21 scholarship kids. That makes a difference. We can play with their Nebraska walkons, but we can't play with their scholarship kids," he said. "We don't have a player on our team who's a scholarship kid as far as Nebraska's concerned." With that, the Coffeyville series ended . . . temporarily.

Two years later, Foster contacted Nebraska about playing again. His interest in another game indicated how strong he thought his team was. The Cornhuskers, eager to schedule quality competition for their freshman-jayvees, agreed to another game in Coffeyville.

When the teams played, Coffeyville had a 6-1 record and was ranked eighth among the nation's junior colleges. Nebraska's junior varsity was coming off a 21-19 loss to the Air Force Academy junior varsity, in Colorado Springs.

Coffeyville scored the first 14 points and led at halftime 27-14 on the way to a 49-12 victory, the worst defeat ever suffered by a Cornhusker jayvee team. "We ran into a buzz saw," Nebraska's first-year freshman coach Shane Thorell said afterward.

Foster, who coached current Cornhuskers Bryan Carpenter and Tim Jackson as well as former Nebraska Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier, had the saw blade sharpened with a dozen or so players with major college



potential, among them offensive backs Steve Mallory, Dabby Dawson and Si-ren Stacy. The Red Ravens' wishbone rolled up 466 yards, 196 more than the jayvees' first three opponents managed, total. Foster was ecstatic.

"You bet I care we beat Nebraska. They've beaten me twice, and not many have ever beaten me twice," he said. "I thought we'd win, but something like this?"

The point is, much has changed since the Cornhusker jayvees defeated Foster's teams back-to-back, in 1984 and 1985. Perhaps, the biggest change has been the NCAA's institution of Proposition 48, which requires a 2.0 grade-point average in a core curriculum and minimum ACT or SAT standardized test scores in order for freshmen to be eligible at member schools. Athletes who don't meet Proposition 48 requirements can compete immediately in junior colleges, however. As a result, junior college programs are getting better athletes. Foster's remarks after the 1985 loss are no longer applicable.

Consider the case of Pat Jackson, the diminutive freshman quarterback who led Waldorf College of Forest City, Iowa, to a 42-35 victory over Nebraska's jayvees in their final game of the season. Jackson ran for five touchdowns and passed for a sixth.

Jackson said he had a high enough standardized test score to qualify for a scholarship from an NCAA school. But, he said, the major colleges that recruited him were wary of his 1.9 cumulative grade-point average and the fact that he was ineligible for all but three football games his senior year in high school. Not long ago, major colleges would have taken a chance on a player as talented as Jackson but with marginal academic credentials. Now, they can't afford to.

With more and more players like Jackson being forced to go the junior college route, those programs will only get better. That's why scheduling them will be easier and beating them more difficult, which brings us back to this season and the Cornhusker jayvees' three consecutive losses, two of them to junior colleges.

Remember Foster's comment after the 1985 game, the one about being able to compete with Nebraska's walkons but not its scholarship recruits? Well, the Cornhusker junior varsity was down to nine scholarship freshmen when it played the Red

Ravens.

Where were the other 12? Strong safety Reggie Cooper, defensive end Mike Croel and cornerback Tahaun Lewis were with the varsity, preparing to play Missouri. Three true freshmen on Nebraska's varsity was almost unheard of five years ago, an indication of the quality of the 1987 recruiting class.

Tight ends Dan Lohmeier from Omaha Creighton Prep and Chris Garrett from Snyder, Texas, were both injured. They're petitioning for hardship rulings that would preserve a season of eligibility and give them four remaining.

Wayne Keneipp, an offensive lineman from Leo High in Chicago, was at home for the entire jayvee season, allowing his injured shoulders to heal. He'll enroll second semester and be able to go through spring drills.

Safety Will Thomas from Houston, the brother of Cornhusker defensive end Broderick Thomas, and linebacker Tim Herman, a Super-Stater from Southeast High in Lincoln, Neb., couldn't practice or play because of Prop 48. Assuming they get their grades in order, and they're in school, they can practice in the fall.

Fullback Randy Williams, a late addition to the class from Broken Arrow, Okla., suffered a bone fracture in a foot and couldn't play. Williams, quarterback Keithan McCant and defensive back Jon Crippen, who redshirted a year ago, were the only scholarship freshmen to play in any of the jayvee losses.

And, of course, quarterback Mickey Joseph, I-back Leodis Flowers and wingback Nate Turner all were sitting out redshirt seasons. Would those three players have made a difference for the junior varsity? That question can be answered with a question. Would the 1985 junior varsity have been 5-0 without Taylor at quarterback, Knox at I-back and Richard Bell at wingback? Obviously it would not.

Let's digress again and look briefly at those three, all *Parade Magazine* high school All-Americans.

Nebraska has never had a recruiting class that included three *Parade* All-Americans. Check back and see how many have ever signed letters of intent with the Cornhuskers out of high school. Guard John McCormick, who played at Omaha Gross, and fullback Micah Heibel, who played at Lincoln Pius X, were *Parade* All-Americans in

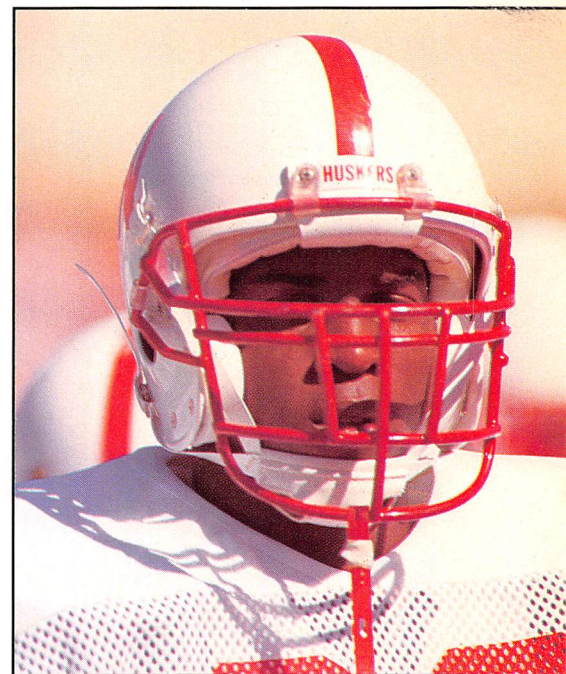
the 1983 recruiting class. Strong safety Brian Washington, who's from Highland Springs, Va., was the only one in Nebraska's 1984 recruiting class, and Etienne was the only one in the much-heralded 1985 class.

Flowers was a two-time Super-Stater at Omaha Central, the school that has produced many major college football players, among them Nebraska I-back Keith Jones as well as former Iowa All-American Larry Station and current Hawkeyes Sean Ridley and Richard Bass.

Iowa made an unsuccessful bid for Flowers, who also seriously considered Oklahoma before finally settling on the Cornhuskers. Flowers, the Gatorade Player of the Year in Nebraska, rushed for more than 1,200 yards in only seven games his senior season.

He decided to redshirt in order to give his right knee time to heal. He hyperextended the knee long jumping early in the track and field season as a senior and sat out Nebraska's Shrine Bowl all-star football game because of it. "Redshirting never occurred to me when I was recruited," said Flowers, who still didn't have 100 percent flexibility in the knee during preseason drills.

Turner, who's from Mt. Carmel High in suburban Chicago, had some injury problems, too, and they contributed to



Lettering frosh like Mike Croel used to be an oddity at Nebraska; but not in 1987.



## FROSH STATISTICS

### Rushing

Name	Att	Gn	Ls	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg
Achola	93	565	59	506	5.4	6	71
Williams	28	212	0	212	7.6	4	32
Haase	32	153	53	100	3.1	2	27
Johnk	24	94	0	94	3.9	0	12
McCant	24	122	30	92	3.8	0	39
Mitchell	18	95	4	91	5.1	0	14
Harchelroad	16	61	2	59	3.7	1	31
Behrens	4	40	1	39	9.8	0	14
Weiss	2	35	0	35	17.5	1	33
Decker	6	26	3	23	3.8	0	9
Lindsley	11	49	35	14	1.3	0	14
Dowse	1	13	0	13	13.0	0	13

### Passing

Name	Att	Cp	Pct	Yds	Int	TD
Haase	60	29	.483	388	4	4
McCant	28	10	.357	182	2	2
Lindsley	10	4	.400	63	0	0

### Receiving

Name	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg
Pleasant	9	140	15.6	0	25
Prater	8	165	20.6	1	57
Baumert	5	68	13.6	0	23
Achola	5	30	6.0	0	9
Lohmeier	4	76	19.0	2	35
Lammel	2	38	19.0	1	29
Behrens	2	29	14.5	0	0
Garrett	2	21	10.5	1	11
Bishop	2	19	9.5	0	9
Mitchell	1	15	25.0	1	25
Muhs	1	9	9.0	0	9
Grobe	1	9	9.0	0	9
Kratzenstein	1	4	4.0	0	4

### Punting

Name	No.	Yds	Avg	Bkd	Lg
Beckler	5	194	38.8	0	60
Geiken	17	573	33.7	0	63

### Punt Returns

Name	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg
Achola	1	22	22.0	0	22
Mitchell	1	21	21.0	0	21
White	8	144	18.0	1	47
Lewis	3	49	16.3	0	35
Crippen	7	104	14.9	1	44

### Kickoff Returns

Name	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg
White	1	26	26.0	0	26
Baumert	1	25	25.0	0	25
Mitchel	8	184	23.0	0	72
Johnk	1	20	20.0	0	20
Achola	3	58	19.3	0	22

### Interception Returns

Name	No.	Yds	Avg.	TD	Lg
Crippen	2	10	5.0	0	5
Krantz	1	37	37.0	1	37

### Defensive

Name	Pos	UA	AS	Tot	Loss
Anderson	DT	19	10	29	1-4
Engelbert	MG	17	8	25	5-26
Zacharias	LB	19	3	22	3-15
Keller	S	12	9	21	0
Liska	LB	12	8	20	1-6
Geiken	LB	11	8	19	2-16
Camp	DE	16	2	18	2-5
Sims	DT	12	6	18	2-3
Crippen	CB	9	7	16	0
Brown	DT	6	10	16	1-2
Holz	CB	11	4	15	1-1
Koellner	MB	9	6	15	2-22
White	SS	10	4	14	1-1
Reilly	DE	8	6	14	2-16
Leise	LB	10	3	13	0
Guild	S	7	5	12	0
Casmer	S	7	4	11	0
Glantz	LB	8	2	10	1-3
Brungard	DT	6	4	10	4-29
Quist	SS	7	2	9	2-29
Rizzuto	LB	4	4	8	0
Hohlen	DE	5	1	6	2-9
Mohnsen	DE	4	2	6	1-1

his decision to redshirt. If he had come in and been healthy, he might have competed for playing time, particularly after Von Sheppard was sidelined by a knee injury. About the time Turner's redshirt was announced, just before the Arizona State game, Osborne said: "I think most years Nate Turner would be very much in the picture, but we have several wingbacks, and I'd hate to waste a year of eligibility." With Bell and Dana Brinson both returning next season, "Nate could afford to redshirt this year," said Osborne. For the same reason, he may get a temporary look at another position, perhaps split end, during spring practice. It's obvious Turner will play somewhere.

Joseph will play, too, which is why he decided to redshirt in late August, after first spending practice time with the varsity. Osborne said Joseph's biggest problem was learning Nebraska's intricate passing game. As a result, the best he could have hoped was to become an "adequate" back-up as a freshman.

Even so, when the quarterback situation was clouded by injuries prior to the Arizona State game, Joseph was promoted from the scout squad and prepared to play, just in case. Since Nebraska's travel roster was expanded to 70 players, Osborne figured he could afford to take four quarterbacks to Tempe.

Joseph, who attended the quarterback meetings all season, could have stepped in and done a creditable job running the option, but he was behind the varsity quarterbacks in passing and calling audibles, according to Osborne. No way would he have made a token appearance.

Joseph carefully considered his situation before deciding to redshirt. He learned when he was 12 years old that he was responsible for his decisions. Now, he says with conviction: "What counts are my decisions because other people don't have to live my life." He grew up fast in a predominately black neighborhood in Marrero, La., a community with a population of approximately 50,000 in the New Orleans metropolitan area.

"It was rough where I grew up, and if you didn't grow up quick, you didn't make it," Joseph said. "By the time I was 14, I'd forgotten more things about life, about making decisions, than some kids had even thought about."

Joseph played four years of varsity

football at Archbishop Shaw High in New Orleans, returning kicks and being a reserve quarterback as a freshman. He began his sophomore year as a tailback but returned to quarterback after the team lost its first three games. With him at the controls, Archbishop Shaw won five of its last seven games that season and 19 of 20 during his final two years. As a senior, Joseph rushed for 921 yards and 14 touchdowns and passed for 1,087 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Osborne called Joseph probably the most-publicized quarterback Nebraska had ever recruited. Oklahoma recruiting coordinator Scott Hill said he was the best high school wishbone quarterback in the country. Notre Dame wanted him. So did Minnesota.

"If I had listened to other people, I'd probably be at Oklahoma or Minnesota right now. But I made my own mind up," said Joseph. "I wasn't listening to anybody else. When you're weak-minded, you get persuaded by people. You can listen to what the players say about their program, but you've got to decide for yourself."

Joseph hasn't second-guessed the decision to redshirt. It wasn't easy, but "it's the best thing I ever did," he said. "I needed to come here, sit out and mature a little bit." He's grown physically as well as mentally, gaining 13 pounds since he reported for fall camp.

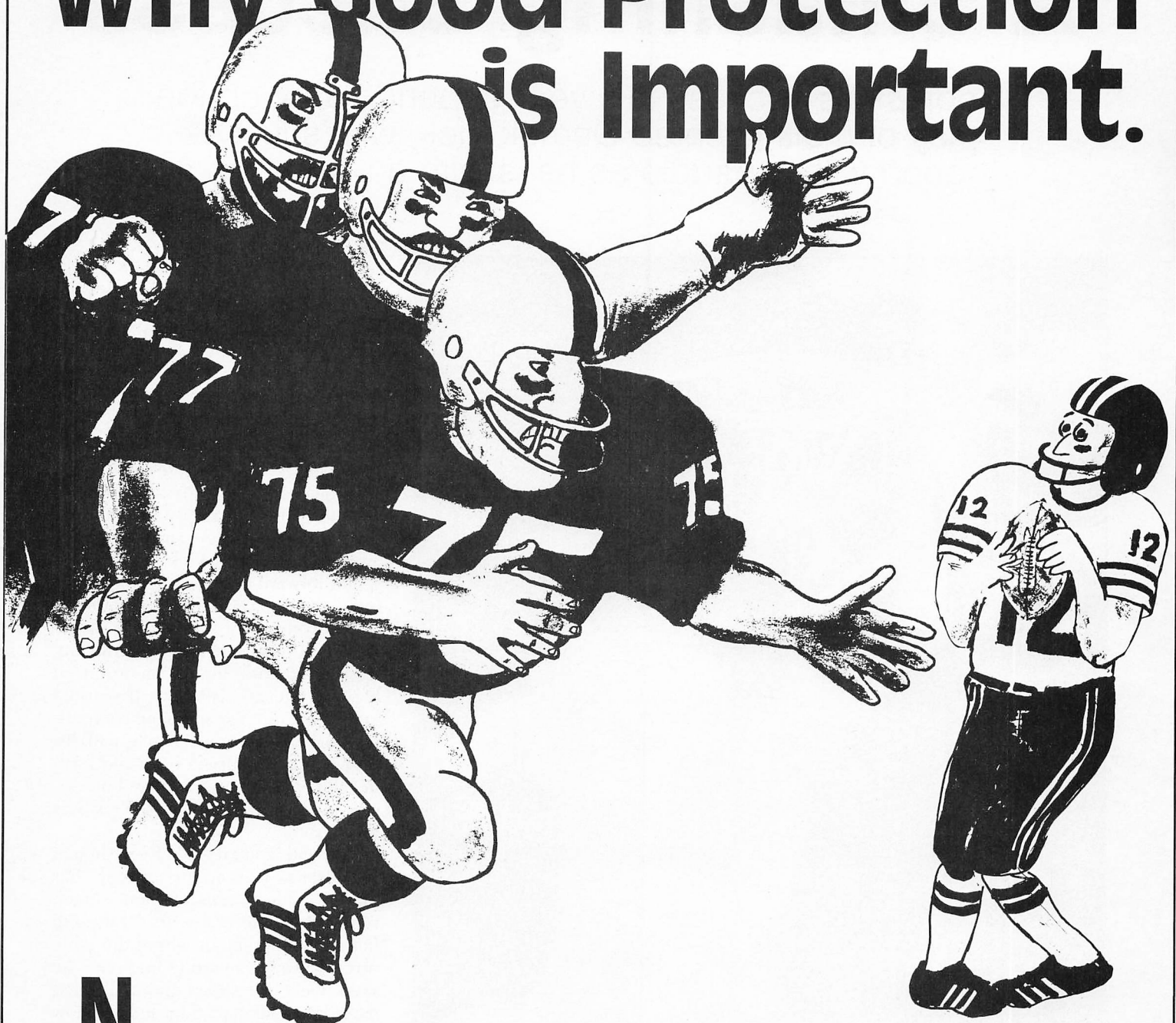
"There were a lot of things I couldn't do at the beginning of the season that I'm doing real well now. Steve (Taylor) and Clete (Blakeman) have really helped me with technique, footwork and poise. In high school, you didn't need much poise. When you dropped back to pass and didn't see anybody open, you knew you could run for 20 yards," Joseph said. "Here, there are big linemen who can run, too." Quarterbacks have to be patient and wait for their receivers to get open.

Joseph, Turner and Flowers have benefitted by redshirting. "Physically, they're about as far along as if they had played," says Thorell. "Their attention span has been real good. The freshman year is a tough year to redshirt. But their attitude has been good." There are many reasons Nebraska's junior varsity finished 2-3 this season. Joseph, Turner and Flowers are three.

That didn't make accepting losses any easier, though. After the last one, Thorell was disconsolate. The season "wasn't real good," he said. ■



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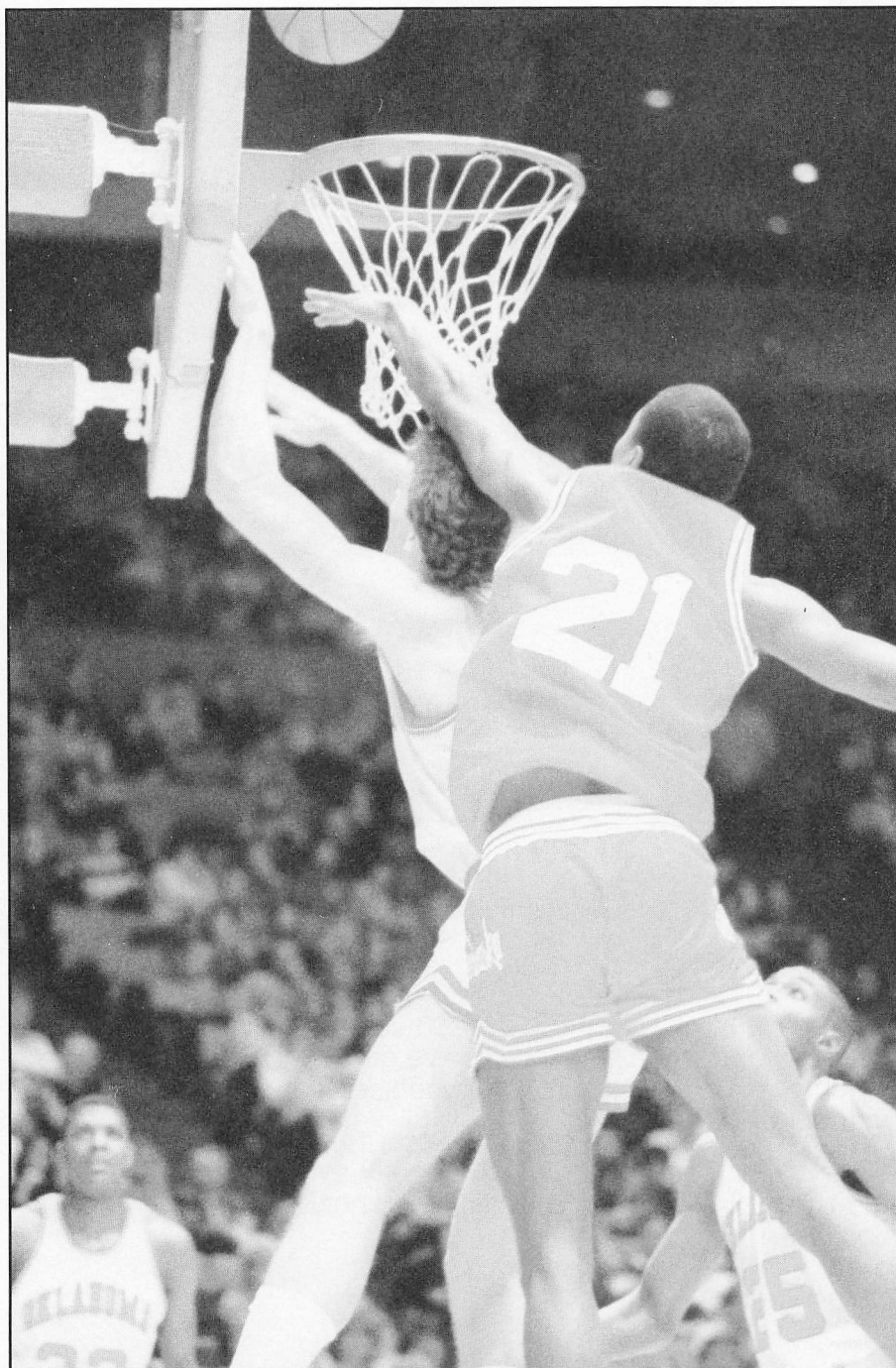
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# A Smashing Success

Nebraska's success this year depends a lot on the play of multi-talented Derrick Vick, who's just as good with a paddle as he is with a basketball.



*Vick (21) goes for the block against Oklahoma's Dave Sieger.*

It must be something to see.

Imagine, if you can, a young man standing 6-foot, 6-inches tall holding what looks like little more than a fly swatter engulfed in his massive hand. He stands crouched behind a small green table, the top of which barely comes to the middle of his thighs, so he dips down low to get a better look at you. Then he prepares to smash you to smithereens. Your seemingly hopeless mission is to pelt a small white ball over a six-inch net and past the wing-span of eagerly awaiting Derrick Vick, Nebraska's senior forward and, perhaps more tellingly, the King Kong of ping pong.

The chances of survival are slim.

Just 10 years ago, Vick won the city table tennis title for his age group in big-time Chicago. Here's an 11-year-old kid wiping out his ping pong competition in gangland-murder style, with little white orbs zipping back and forth in a flurry of smashes, lobes and blocks. Among Chicago's millions, Vick was the best.

And with good reason. Even though Nebraska's lean-on-me leader has played table tennis without much regularity for several years ("I used to live in our basement where the table was, but now it's hard to find one," he says) Vick still shows the skills that made him champion then and that now make him a key to Husker basketball success this season, when Coach Danny Nee fights for his sixth straight 20-win campaign armed with more youthful enthusiasm than game-tested experience.

Vick is one of the few combat veterans for Nebraska. Last year as a juco transfer, he quickly showed his exceptional quickness, leaping ability and shooting touch, and by midseason he'd been penciled in by Nee as a full-time starter even though he was only a year out of Hutchison (Ks.) Community College.



## A PERSONAL GLIMPSE

**NAME:** Derrick Dwayne Vick  
**Birthdate:** Oct. 14, 1966  
**Birthplace:** Chicago, Ill.  
**Parents' Names:** Ivory & Ovia Vick  
**Hometown:** Chicago  
**High School:** Corliss  
**Year in school (class):** Sr.  
**Major:** Speech Communications  
**Biggest thrill in high school...** "making the JV team as a sophomore."  
**Biggest thrill in college...** "beating Kansas."

**Personal heroes:** Julius Irving  
**Favorite actor:** Redd Foxx  
**Favorite TV show:** "The Cosby Show"  
**Favorite childhood memory...** "playing Ping-Pong and winning the city title."  
**Nobody knows I'm...** "an interesting person."  
**I wish I could stop...** "worrying about how other people perceive me."  
**I've never been able to...** "do what I really want to do on the court."  
**I'd give almost anything to**

**meet...** "Janet Jackson."  
**I hope I never have to...** "live in poverty."  
**The one thing I can't stand in people is...** "jealousy and envy."  
**If I could change one thing about myself, it would be...** "to treat everybody the same."  
**If I could change one thing in the world, it would be...** "to find a solution to hunger and poverty."  
**If I could tell young people today one thing, it would be...** "stay away from drugs."

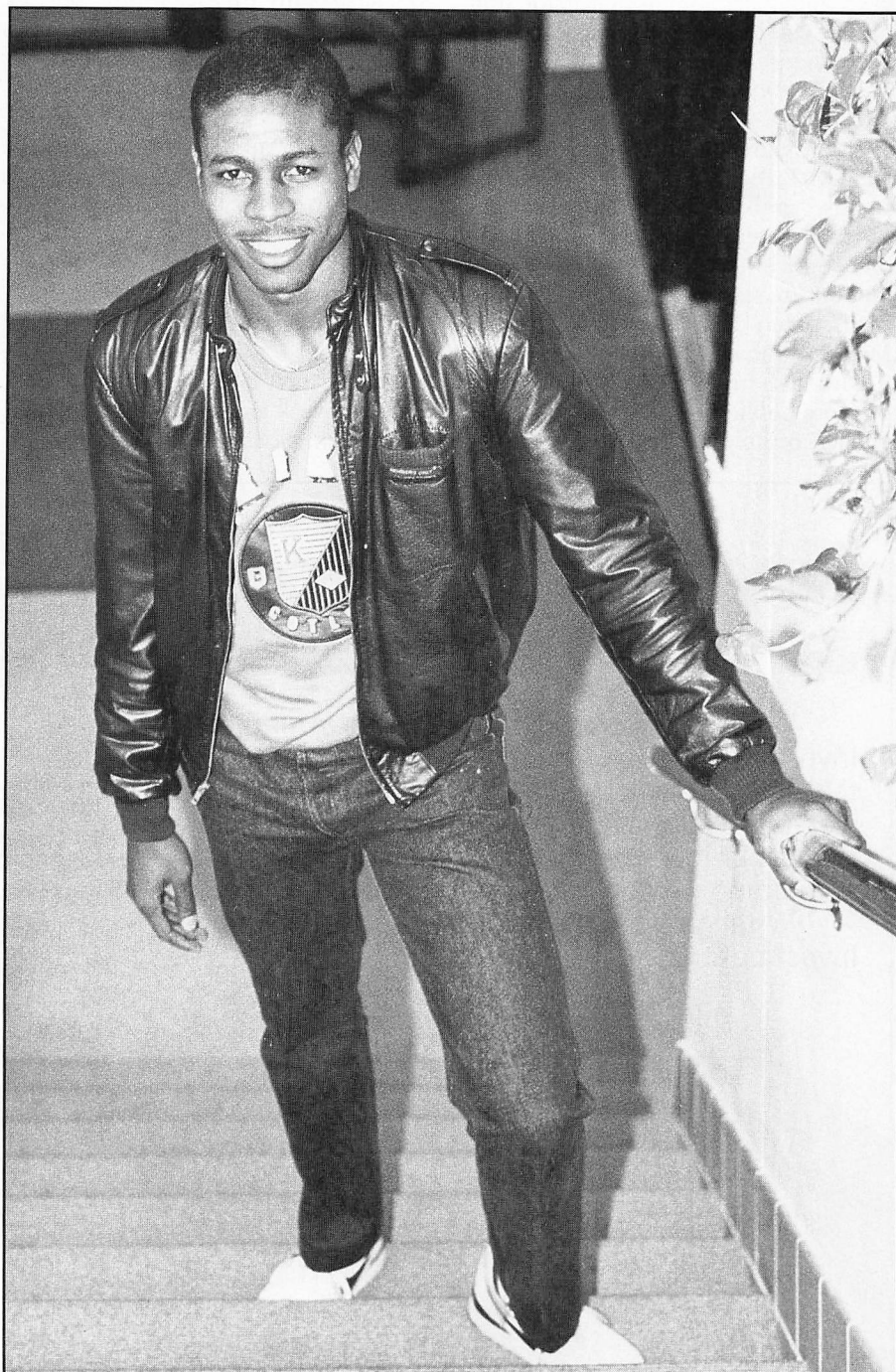
"Derrick's real quick for being 6-6," says Husker guard Eric Johnson, who should know because the two are roommates and heated one-on-one rivals. "By the end of the summer, I was starting to beat him. But it was tough. I'm a 6-2 guard, and it was even tough for me to out-quick Derrick. I had to set him up. You know, hit a few jumpers to make him play tight, then try to drive on him. But even that didn't work all the time because he could stay way off me sometimes and still jump quick enough against my outside shot to block it away. Derrick is big-time quick."

Nebraska will need more than his quickness this season as Nee's second team is a challenging contrast to his inaugural unit; the wise old veterans (NU's departed seniors accounted for nearly 70 percent of its scoring and rebounding) have been replaced by mostly inexperienced but talented youngsters.

"We're asking a lot of Derrick this year, but we know he can do it," says Husker assistant coach Gary Borgen, who's closely followed Vick's career, having recruited him to Hutchison CC three years ago. Borgen came to Nebraska in the spring of 1986 as one of Nee's first assistants, and the HCC connection grew as Vick and teammates Henry "T" Buchanan and, this year, Pete Manning followed.

"With our team this year being so young, we're looking to Derrick for stability and composure," says Borgen. That should be no problem; Vick has gone through his entire basketball career as a "designated captain" of sorts. "It seems like I've always been the leadership type," says the quiet Vick, who was tapped for that honor as a high school junior, then again as a senior, then again at HCC, and last, but not least, again at Nebraska this year.

But, without pulling any punches,



*Nebraska's rise or fall in the rugged Big Eight will depend largely on Derrick Vick's contributions.*



the Huskers definitely need Vick's considerable athletic ability. Last year, he led Nebraska in field goal shooting (54.6 percent) and blocked shots (19). He finished that 21-12 campaign with an 11.1 scoring average, but that mark was skewed downward because of his part-time-starter status. By season's end, when Nebraska won five of its last seven Big Eight games, and its National Invitational Tournament third-place finish put Husker fans in a frenzy, Vick was the key frenzor.

Vick showed the quickness and eye-hand coordination that made him a child star at ping pong as he won All-NIT honors and averaged 17.0 points and 8.5 rebounds in the "other" post-season tourney.

In the third-place battle against Arkansas (Little Rock), Vick scored 17 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and blocked three shots, which was only one short of the school record for rejections in a game, and Nebraska won, 76-67, before 12,742 fans in prestigious Madison Square Garden in New York.

Although his offensive prowess may be more publicized, Vick stands a good chance of helping the Huskers most

with his defense.

"When you look at all the great forward-type players on our schedule this year — Finnis Denbo of Wyoming, Jeff Grayer of Iowa State, Derrick Chievous of Missouri plus all the rest — it's going to be Derrick Vick who has to carry the big load for us when we have to slow those guys down," says Bargaen.

"Derrick may be built like a small forward, but he plays more like a power forward. He's a physical player and probably our best rebounder, even though we've got players who are taller. Because of his athletic ability, Derrick can help us in a lot of ways, defense being one of them. You'll see him almost every time on the other team's best front-line player."

You'll also almost always see Vick staying after his homework, keeping his nose clean and paying close attention in practice. "A good kid," says Bargaen.

"A good example for the other players to follow."

But Vick's footsteps are not the kind that most of his teammates would probably want to walk in step-for-step. You see, Vick is extremely happy that he's playing basketball for Nebraska,

and, more importantly, he's extremely happy to be alive, for it would take a walk through a hospital emergency room for any of Vick's fellow Huskers to walk in his shoes.

"I guess we just didn't think it could have been appendicitis," Vick says of the then-mysterious ailment that he suffered as a 12-year-old in Chicago. He felt lousy. He even missed school as his mother Ovia and father Ivory watched over him.

"It seems like I was sick for weeks," says Vick. "We even went to the doctor once, but I just came on back home to rest."

But rest won't make a near-ruptured appendix return to normal, and Vick was finally dashed to the hospital after he became gravely ill. Already ruptured, his appendix was removed, but his hospital ordeal was just beginning. While recovering from surgery in a hospital bed, the ping pong flash from Chicago came down with, of all things, chicken pox. "I lived in that hospital for almost a month," he remembers vividly, if not painfully. "I'm just happy to be alive."

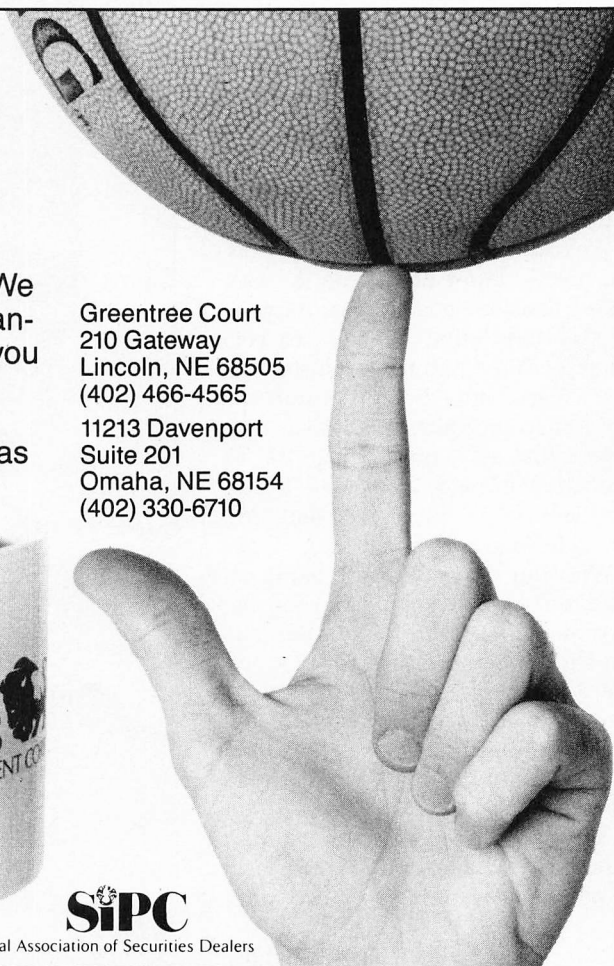
Teammates such as Johnson are hap-

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py he's alive and well and in the lineup. A leg injury sidelined Vick for the Nebraska season opener against the Czechoslovakia National Team last November, and his absence was painfully clear in the 69-66 loss at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"The main thing I noticed was that we missed his quickness," says Johnson, starting at guard this year after transferring from Baylor and sitting out the 1986-87 campaign. "Things seemed to move in slow motion without Derrick in there. Derrick's a big part of the team, and when he's out, it's hard for anyone to come in and do the things we're used to seeing from him."

What Husker fans are used to seeing from Vick are a string of all-star performances. Besides being named to the NIT All-Tournament team, Vick accomplished the same feat last year at the Rochester (NY) tournament, which Nebraska won, and this year's Ameritas Cornhusker Classic, which Ohio State won, but not without Vick putting up an 18-point and four-rebound fight in the title game.

But Vick also realizes that making the Big Eight's all-star team this year and finishing high in the team standings of the league (a mini-NBA talent-wise) will be monumentally tough. "For us to do well as a team, we're going to have to *upset* people. That should be fun, though. The problems we had at the first of the year were because of little things. Stuff like blocking out, taking care of the ball and letting our concentration slip. Those are things that we can improve on with just a little hard work. We'd do all right for a while, then let down for a while. When the Big Eight gets here, it'll be time to get serious and pull it all together."

Still a long way off, Vick's career as a pro basketball player is in the back of his mind. "I've thought about the European leagues," he says realistically. "And I think I could do well there and improve as a pro player. The NBA? Well, that would be something else, and I hope I get a shot. Playing in the Big Eight this year will sort of be like playing in the NBA anyway."

But playing against tough competition in a fast-paced sport that requires great quickness and eye-hand coordination is nothing new to Nebraska's multi-talented Vick; he's got a slam dunk that's every bit as wicked as the forehand kill shot he used to rule Chicago as a ping pong whizkid.

#### HUSKER HOOP NOTES:

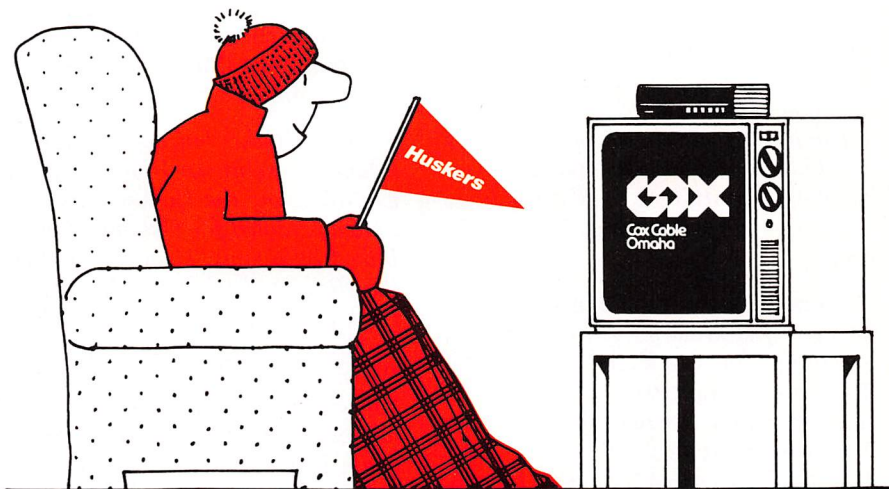
Nebraska signed three high school senior forwards to national letters-of-intent during the early signing period in November: Lewis Geter, 6-7, Columbus, Ohio (Linden-McKinley). Geter averaged 17.5 points and 10 rebounds per game as a junior, helping LMHS to a 15-8 record. He serves as president of the student council and carries a 2.7 grade-point-average. Geter picked Nebraska over Michigan State, Ohio State, Xavier and Ohio University.

Carl Hayes, 6-7, Chicago (Westchester St. Joseph). Hayes averaged nine points and a team-high seven rebounds last year. He hit 60 percent from the free throw line and 50 per-

cent of his field goals while leading the team in blocked shots with 60. Hayes was honorable-mention all-conference last year, when he played on the same team as current NU freshman guard Clifford Scales. That squad went 28-3 and placed third in the Illinois state tournament last season.

Dapreis Owens, 6-9, Mansfield (Ohio). Owens averaged 22 points and 14.8 rebounds last year while hitting 52 percent of his field goals and 59 percent from the line. Listed on Dick Vitale's Top 100 as well as Van Coleman's Top 100 players for 1987-88. Picked Nebraska over Tennessee, Cleveland State and Depaul. ■

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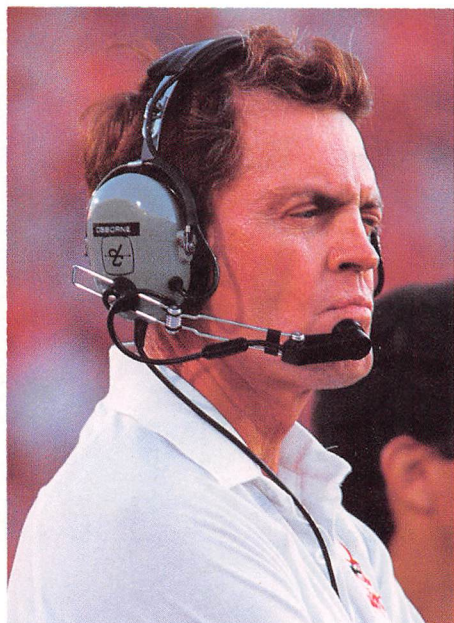
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# Ask Tom Osborne



**Q:** *In regards to the Big Eight's commitment to the Orange Bowl, you have said that you might be in favor of not renewing that contract. In your opinion, what would be the advantages and disadvantages of discontinuing the Orange Bowl commitment?* **Eric Long, Newburgh, Ind.**

**A:** "I'm not so sure that bowl game tie-ups are that great for any conference, including the Big Eight. I guess the Rose Bowl people would probably argue with that because they seem to have a lucrative deal out there. But for the conferences that have bowl tie-ups, their advantage is that their champion is guaranteed to go to a bowl, and in our case, it's a pretty prestigious bowl. It protects you from having to go to a minor bowl or being shut out completely if the league champion happens to finish with a so-so overall record and isn't rated very high. It eliminates some risk. But I'm not so sure the Big Eight is going to run into that situation. Oklahoma and Nebraska are generally at the top each year, not only in the conference but in the national polls. The last time we had a champion that was a little below par was back in 1976, I believe, when Colorado went to the Orange Bowl with an 8-3 record.

"There are several advantages to being free to choose your own bowl. Keep

in mind that I feel the Orange Bowl people are wonderful people, and they've treated us very nicely. It's just that there are some drawbacks to their situation. Without a bowl tie-up, a university could have a lot more control over where it would play and which team it would play. As it is now, the Big Eight champion has no say. Like I said, the Orange Bowl people are great, but I don't think you can say the same thing about the actual playing facility. It's just not as modern as it used to be. I think you can look at some of the independent schools — like Penn State, Miami and Notre Dame — in the last few years and see what kind of control they have over which bowl games they play in. So, there are a lot of factors involved in these bowl tie-ups. And just because Tom Osborne feels one way doesn't mean everybody else feels the same way, too. I just think it's an idea worth looking into."

**Q:** *I am a Husker fan, even though when I came to Nebraska from Los Angeles I didn't know the Huskers. So, at first I always rooted for Oklahoma because I liked Billy Sims. Then after following the Huskers, I turned to Nebraska. So I ask you, what is it with the Huskers and the Sooners for the past four years? We've come real close but never won. For the first time in several years, Oklahoma's option worked very well against us. Do you think that is going to be a factor next year?* **Bobby Hays, Arlington, Neb.**

**A:** "I don't see any reason why Oklahoma shouldn't be a pretty good football team again next year, just like we should have a talented team. Oklahoma executed against us about as well as they had all year, and they'll return everyone in their backfield that played against us. I imagine they'll drop off a little in the offensive line because they graduate three seniors there, plus Keith Jackson. Of course, we'll lose some good people on defense. Neil Smith and Tim Rother were probably the two best defensive tackles in the Big Eight, and they'll be gone. Our top two strong safeties are seniors, and we won't have them. Plus, we'll lose some ends and

linebackers, so I'm sure Oklahoma's offense will be a great concern for us next year.

"Really, though, the key thing will be how they fill holes on defense. I believe Oklahoma loses about six or seven starters and most of them were All-Americans."


**Q:** *I have read that all the Husker coaches will be spending a lot of time from here on out on the recruiting trail. I remember last year how excited you were about recruiting, especially after the loss to Oklahoma because you wanted your program to bounce back. Will there be any chance in your recruiting philosophy this year? Do you still enjoy the constant travel? What will Nebraska be looking for in recruits this year?* **Burt Grossman, Omaha**

**A:** "Sure, I still enjoy recruiting. It gives me an opportunity to meet the prospect as well as his parents. And it's a challenge, too. You win and lose in recruiting, just like on the football field. It's important, too. The quality of freshmen you bring into your program determines the quality of football you play in a couple of years. Naturally, the main part of recruiting that I, and I think most coaches, don't care for is the time away from home. We're on the road pretty solid for about two weeks after the last game of the year and then again for several weeks after the bowl game.

"What are we looking for this year? Of course, you're always interested in impact players at running back and quarterback. Yes, we'd probably like to sign some pretty good linemen, even though that doesn't mean we'll try to force them into action next year as freshmen. Some people have asked me about losing our top three defensive tackles this year, and, yes, that's a concern any time you lose seniors like that. But we have players on campus right now that should help us there — like Ray Valladao and Paul Brungardt and Kent Wells."

*If you have questions for Coach Osborne, please address them to "Ask Tom Osborne," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501. ■*





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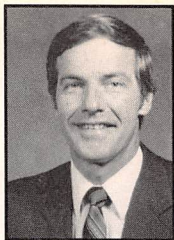
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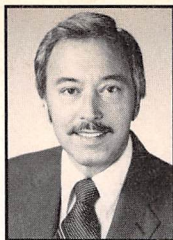




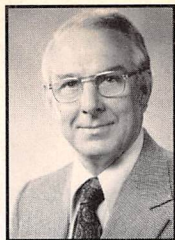
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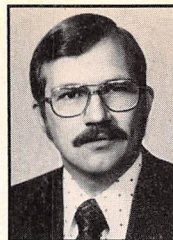
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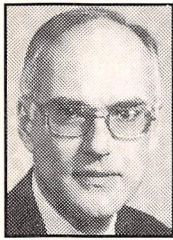
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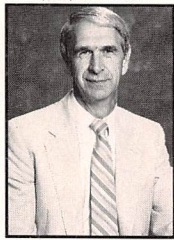
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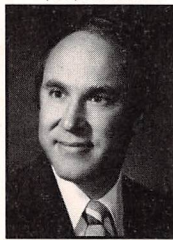
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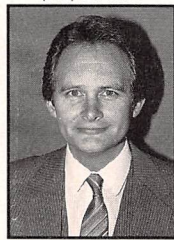
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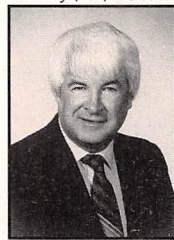
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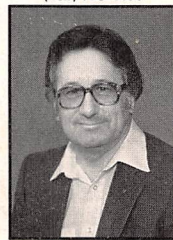
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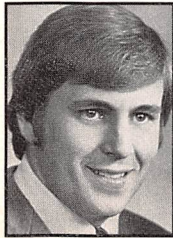
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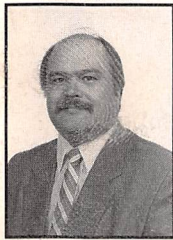
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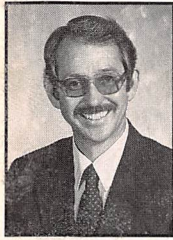
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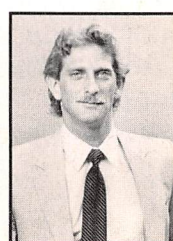
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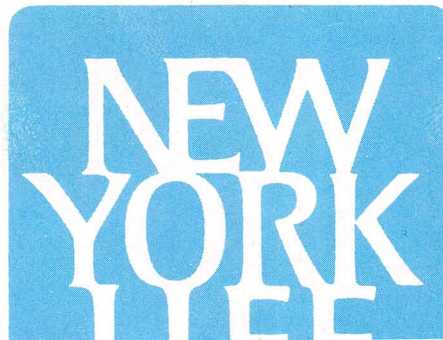
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